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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

It really does pay to be kind

A Vancouver man receives a month's worth of rent money after offering to buy food for an apparent panhandler PAGE 8

What say you, mayor? Premier?

Metro reviews the year that was with Christy Clark and Gregor Robertson PAGES 4 & 6

Last-minute shoppers, take heart

If you have yet to cross off every name on your shopping list, our Gift Guide is here for you PAGES 43-58

BECAUSE THE GREAT GATSBY WASN'T DECADENT ENOUGH

LEO PLAYS A REAL HEDONIST IN THE WOLF OF WALL STREET PAGE 34

B.C. stands firm against pipeline

Decision. Province isn't swayed by the National Energy Board's endorsement of the Northern Gateway project, saying its conditions for approval have yet to be met

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

A tug tows a large barge along Princess Royal Island. Following months of hearings, years of debate and dozens of protests, the federal panel reviewing the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline gave its blessing to the project on Thursday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

British Columbia's environment minister says the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline will not be built "at the cost of the environment."

Mary Polak said Thursday that despite the National Energy Board's Joint Review Panel (JRP) recommendation to support the controversial project — albeit with 209 conditions — the province remains unconvinced that the five conditions it set out have been met.

"We will not be providing our support. We need to see the evidence," said Polak. "There is no evidence that they would be able to respond effectively and timely in the event of a spill."

The JRP decision only partly meets the province's first condition: successful completion of the environmental assessments process.

Polak said the requirements to create world-leading marine and terrestrial spill response and recovery plans, address aboriginal concerns, and provide B.C. with a fair share of benefits remain unfulfilled.

"We've set the bar high," she said.

However, the NDP Opposition said the province's stance is compromised after it gave up its own environmental assessment process in favour of the JRP.

"B.C.'s voice needs to be heard now," said NDP Leader Adrian Dix. "The Enbridge Northern Gateway is not, and will not be, supported in B.C. and we will join those who are opposed and continue the fight."

Ecojustice lawyer Barry Robinson — who represented ForestEthics Advocacy, the Living Oceans Society and the Raincoast Conservation Foundation at the hearings — said many of the recommendations, such as studying whether diluted bitumen floats in water, were questions that should have been answered before the JRP rendered its decision.

"These are basic questions. There were many pieces that seem to be missing. We saw that during the hearing," said Robinson.

He and many other critics questioned how the JRP could conclude a major oil spill off B.C.'s coast wouldn't have permanent and widespread effects without proper evidence.

"Until the technological and scientific work is completed, the Enbridge project cannot go ahead," said Art Sterritt, executive director of Coastal First Nations. "Beaches are still polluted in Alaska from the Exxon Valdez, and some fish and wildlife populations have never recovered."

Sterritt said the panel's decision was overshadowed by the incomplete risk assessment and unresolved aboriginal issues.

The federal government has 180 days to decide whether to grant approval of the project.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 2

Follow Matt Kieltyka on Twitter @Mkieltyka

NEWS

Reaction

Venom and vindication

"Now that we have received the report, we will thoroughly review it, consult with affected aboriginal groups and then make our decision.... No project will be approved unless it is safe for Canadians and safe for the environment."
— Joe Oliver, federal minister of natural resources

"Is a $10-billion spill worth whatever B.C.'s getting out of this — which it said in this report is a little north of $1 billion over 30 years?... That's kind of stupid."
— NDP MP Nathan Cullen, whose riding includes Kitimat

"It's disappointing that the panel chose to ignore the views of the vast majority of British Columbians, First Nations and even the B.C. government."
— Mike Hudema of Greenpeace

"New markets mean we will receive higher prices for our resources — creating and supporting more jobs and generating higher royalties and taxes to help pay for the vital public services like quality health care and education."
— Alberta Energy Minister Diana McQueen

"I think the case is very clear that there is a real risk to the environment, the local economy and the social well-being of people who live in this region. The (joint review panel) agrees with that yet it's full steam ahead."
— David Miller of the World Wildlife Fund

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A map of the proposed tanker route leaving from Kitimat. Following months of hearings, years of debate and dozens of protests, the federal panel reviewing the controversial Northern Gateway pipeline released its report Thursday.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Review panel OK's Northern Gateway

...with 209 conditions.
Panel acknowledges risk but concludes Canada is better off with pipeline

A review panel has given its blessing to the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline that would carry bitumen from Alberta's oilsands to tankers on the West Coast.

The panel has attached 209 conditions, which cover everything from protecting caribou habitat to research into how the oil would behave in a marine environment to the company's spill-response plans.

"After weighing the evidence, we concluded that Canada and Canadians would be better off with the Enbridge Northern Gateway project than without it," the three-member panel said in its report.

Supporters say the pipeline is critical if Alberta is to get its oil to emerging markets in Asia. The panel agreed.

"We have taken the view that opening Pacific Basin markets is important to the Canadian economy and society."

While there are bound to be some environmental impacts, the panel said those can be effectively mitigated and the project's economic benefits outweigh the risks and burdens.

"We found that a large spill is unlikely," the panel said. "We further found that a large spill would initially have significant adverse environmental effects on ecosystems and we accepted the scientific evidence that indicates that the environment would ultimately recover and return to a functioning ecosystem similar to that existing prior to the spill."

Enbridge said in a news release that it will work toward meeting the conditions.

The final decision rests with the federal government, which has roughly six months to respond. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Timeline

Years of struggle

• **May 27, 2010 —** Enbridge files an application to the National Energy Board to build the Northern Gateway pipeline and tanker terminal.

• **Jan. 10, 2012 —** The review panel begins public hearings that would travel throughout B.C. and Alberta.

• **July 27, 2012 —** Premier Christy Clark announces at a premiers' conference that B.C. will not be part of any discussions about a national energy policy until the province gets its "fair share" of revenues from the project.

• **Oct. 22, 2012 —** A protest against the project draws thousands to the B.C. legislature.

• **April 12, 2013 —** The joint review panel releases a list of 199 conditions the company would have to meet should the project receive approval, including $1 billion in liability coverage to cover the cost of a spill.

• **May 31, 2013 —** B.C. government lawyers tell the federal review panel that the province does not support the pipeline project as proposed.

• **June 24, 2013 —** Final arguments are complete. The panel begins its deliberations.

• **Dec. 19, 2013 —** The federal panel reviewing the Northern Gateway pipeline releases its report.

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CHRISTY CLARK

B.C. premier talks about her big election win, setting the tone in the legislature, LNG, jogging and the road ahead

‘I THINK I HAVE A DIFFERENT MANAGEMENT STYLE’

JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The election — where does it rank in terms of your political accomplishments?
Well, I would say that this is a remarkable year, partly because so many people wrote off our, my, chances of winning it. There is always some sense of satisfaction that comes with defying your critics. I think we’ve all felt that in some point in our lives. But for me, I think on election night what I felt was a huge sense of excitement on being able to finish the plan we had started two years before.

Strife in the party — what has changed in the time since Gordon Campbell was premier?
I think I have a different management style. My view is very much that, as the person at the top of the organization, I need to rely on the smart people around me to make decisions. I think that has changed a lot of things, because it’s meant that, really, every single member of our caucus is participating in a meaningful way in the decisions that are being made.

What is the morale like? Has the tone shifted?
It’s been really great. Partly because everyone who is there now wants to be there. When I became premier, there were a lot of people at the end of their term who weren’t planning to run again and were really waiting for the election so they could get on with their lives. Everyone that’s there now wants to be there; they’re very purposeful about what they want to accomplish. Half of the people are new, so they’ve brought a new fresh set of eyes to what we’re doing, and that’s been invaluable to us.

How do you justify not getting right down to work and sitting in the legislature after the election?
We did sit after the election ... before many of the new MLAs even had their offices open or were able to hire staff.

Then we spent the fall engaging British Columbians about how we’re going to go about doing the things we said. For example: liquor reform. That liquor law, the liquor laws of British Columbia don’t make any sense. They don’t reflect the way we live today. I knew that and I said we were going to change it, but we needed to spend some time talking to people about that to understand what they wanted us to change.

What do you think the big story is going to be in the coming year?
I think it will be having one or even more companies get to final investment decisions on liquefied natural gas.

I hope that maybe one or two will be able to make their final investment decisions in 2014. Remember these decisions aren’t like a half a billion dollars or even a billion dollars. In the case of Petronas, it’s a $36-billion investment ... the largest investment ever made in Canada. So we’re talking about massive investments here, and companies don’t make those kinds of investments in six months. So my hope is that some of them will get close enough so they can do it in 2014.

I know you’ve taken up running, and that’s a big passion of yours these days. How has that kept you motivated and positive throughout the year?
You know, it’s made a huge difference. Part of it is I’m a very determined person. Making sure that I run every day has been a part, a reflection of my determination to stick with it and be disciplined about my life. But it’s also given me the resilience I’ve needed to get through some really busy months.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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GREGOR ROBERTSON

After another year in office and with another election looming in 2014, the mayor sits down with Metro to talk housing, homelessness and campaigning.

'LATELY I GET PEOPLE SAYING THEY'RE SURE GLAD I'M NOT ROB FORD'

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

His critics may focus on bike lanes and tall towers, but Mayor Gregor Robertson is looking at the big picture. Love it or hate it, affordable housing, transit and a diverse economy will remain his top priorities after five years in the mayor's office.

"I've stayed true to my promises. I've been very transparent about my commitments and goals for the city.... People know what I'm about. The rest of the political arena is a big mystery."

The former entrepreneur sat down with Metro to discuss the city's successes and challenges in 2013 and next year's municipal election. And, yes, he hopes to stay at city hall for another three years.

On affordable housing:
We've had really good results getting affordable housing going and record amounts of rental housing approved. That will take some time to build out, but we'll finally see some new supply to ease the pressure in the rental market and hopefully bring more affordability. That's the big pressure for a lot of people living in Vancouver.

On anti-development backlash across the city:
It's a natural conflict between affordability and more development. There's a million more people arriving in Metro Vancouver over the next 30 years.... The only way we deal with it is by adding more housing and there's not much space to do that. The easy choices are all gone.

Our tough task at city hall is to strike a balance between adding housing in neighbourhoods and making sure it's as careful and thoughtful as possible. We've done an unprecedented amount of consultation these past few years, but the pressure keeps building.

On homelessness:
It's frustrating that the total number of homeless isn't going down. It's good to see it stabilize (at 1,600 people) after a decade of skyrocketing and it's positive to see the street population dramatically reduced (to 273) in five years, but we need to transition people from shelters into permanent housing.

Our partnership with the B.C. government is really important to getting more permanent housing built and ultimately solving homelessness.

Right now the shelters are all full, the housing is all full. Clearly we need more space opened up. Hopefully by 2015 we see the opportunity for everyone who wants to come inside to be in a safer place."

On campaigning:
It's fun when there's more people engaged in politics. It's more like a team sport when it's campaign time, which I love. But I prefer getting things done at city hall to campaigning for a next term.

Our critics obsess over the strangest things that, frankly, my team spends very little time on. I'd include bike lanes in that. It's important work, but it's a tiny fraction of the work happening on our streets and at city hall. It gets blown out of proportion by critics that are obsessed with it. That part of politics, that's the tiresome part.

On how Vancouverites see him:
I'm obviously not the new guy anymore after five years as mayor. But lately I get people saying they're sure glad I'm not Rob Ford. That's a common one, and that compared to other Canadian cities we're doing good.

Now I've got a record to run on.... It's up to people to judge from there.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

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Man posing as panhandler pays Good Samaritan's rent

Random act of kindness. Mystery 'panhandler' waited two hours for someone to offer him help

NICK WELLS
vancouver@metronews.ca

A chance encounter at a bank on Wednesday night has given a Vancouver man a rent-free Christmas.

Yogi Omar went to deposit some money at the Vancity Bank on Pender and Hornby at about midnight when he saw a panhandler standing outside.

The man approached Omar and asked for spare change. At first, Omar said no and started to walk away.

"I honestly don't know (what) happened to make me turn back. I just felt like saying something else," said Omar, who co-owns InspirationALL Talent and Modeling Group, on Thursday.

The two of them started talking and instead of offering change, Omar offered to buy the man food.

Instead, the man surprised the would-be do-gooder by revealing he had no desire for change or food but wanted to help Omar out.

The man wasn't really panhandling. Every year at Christmas, he and his family do random acts of kindness for strangers who offer kindness to them.

He asked Omar how he could help. Omar revealed that he had just purchased tickets to fly to Guangzhou, China, to see his dad, who was diagnosed with cancer for the second time.

"The guy then asked me how much my rent was, and I jokingly told him the full amount: $469 to be exact.

"Then he whipped out $469 in cash from his fanny pack and handed it to me," Omar said.

Omar described the man as a "pretty normal" man in his 50s with a scruffy beard.

The man claimed to have been at the location since 10 p.m. and no one else had offered to help him out.

Omar said he drove home in a daze and wishes he could have thanked the man properly.

First thing this morning, he took his money to his landlord and shared his story on Facebook.

"I hope people see this and just share the love with people around them. Be kind and share the love."

Yogi Omar, with his scooter in Vancouver, Thursday, had his rent paid by a do-gooder. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Port to make call on coal

'Tis the season to decide whether coal exports from the Fraser Surrey Docks are naughty or nice.

Port Metro Vancouver is expected to promptly make a decision on the controversial project, slated to handle up to 8 million metric tonnes of coal shipped from the U.S., now that it has collected input from the public on the proponent's environmental impact assessment.

And it got an earful. A group concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the project, led by Voters Taking Action on Climate Change, handed 3,397 comments and a petition with 12,000 signatures to the port earlier this week.

That's on top of comments submitted directly to the port, which will be posted online once they're scanned.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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TRANSLINK

Coun. Tim Stevenson will travel to the 2014 Sochi Olympics to represent Vancouver. EMILY JACKSON/METRO FILE

Gay councillor meets with Russian Consul

Sochi 2014. Councillor will meet with the International Olympic Committee to discuss a Pride House

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Immediately after city council unanimously voted to send Coun. Tim Stevenson, who is gay, to the 2014 Sochi Olympics, the Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation called him to ask for a meeting.

"I didn't know what to expect," Stevenson said of the meeting, which happened at city hall on Thursday morning.

But his conversation with Dr. Artem Tcherkassov, Honorary Consul for the Russian Federation, went well.

"He was very gracious," Stevenson said. "He said that anything he could do to help set up meetings, anything he could do to help with my passport, he was happy to do."

Stevenson is travelling as deputy mayor to meet with the International Olympic Committee to discuss a permanent Pride House and the inclusion of sexual orientation in its charter. The city will pay for his journey, while donations from the community and developers will pay for the other two delegates.

The Honorary Consul was aware of the city's mission and its concerns with the anti-gay laws passed in Russia, Stevenson said.

"He indicated he saw this as a beginning of a dialogue with Vancouver and Russia, and would like to meet with me after I return," he said, adding he was grateful Tcherkassov reached out so quickly.

"That's a good sign."

B.C. Premier Christy Clark also threw her support behind Stevenson's mission and Vancouver's choice to send him as a delegate.

"I think it sends the right message," Clark said in an interview with Metro on Thursday. "What is happening in Russia is wrong and the gay community deserves to live free from fear, whatever country they live in."

New Westminster

Charges laid in serious assault

Police have laid charges against a 16-year-old in the Tuesday-night attack that left a 19-year-old male in a coma. Sgt. Bari Emam of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said in a statement the motive appeared to be attempted robbery. The victim was found after police were called to 23rd Street and 8th Avenue in New Westminster on Tuesday night, at about 7:45 p.m. NICK WELLS/METRO

Vancouver. Man arrested for violent robbery

A Vancouver man has been arrested for attacking and stealing from two women within four hours on Wednesday night.

First, the man punched a 56-year-old woman in the head, knocked her to the ground and stole her purse when she was walking through a lane near Victoria Drive and East 35th Avenue around 8 p.m., according to a statement from Vancouver police.

About four hours later, the same man stopped an 18-year-old woman to ask for the time near Slocan Street and East 29th Avenue. He then punched her in the face and stole her mobile phone and purse.

Both women were taken to the hospital, and have since been released.

A 35-year-old man was arrested for the two robberies He will remain in custody until charges are recommended. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Gabriela Kvammen, 3, of Coquitlam makes a donation to Salvation Army volunteer Derek Noseworthy outside of Coquitlam Centre on Thursday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

A nation of Santas — or Scrooges?

'Tis the season, but not that much giving. Tithing? Yeah right. Survey shows Canadians give half as much as their American neighbours

BOB MACKIN
vancouver@metronews.ca

While people claim to derive more enjoyment from giving to charity than receiving Christmas presents, Canadians donated much less than one per cent of their income to charity.

Giving to charity was preferred by 87 per cent of respondents to a fall Ipsos Reid poll, six per cent better than those who enjoyed receiving gifts more. Only 13 per cent were "bah, humbug" over the thought of giving to a charity at Christmastime.

The Fraser Institute's latest Generosity Index found Canadians donated 0.64 per cent of their aggregate incomes to charity in 2011, half the 1.33 per cent given by United States tax filers.

Overall, 94 per cent of Canadians aged 15 and up contributed to the $10.6 billion received by charities, according to the 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating. Some 13.3 million people gave their time, combining for 2.07 billion hours of volunteer work — about the same as 1.1 million full-time jobs. The 15-to-34 age group was less likely to give than baby boomers.

"There is far more financial pressure on young people these days than there was historically and in terms of time being squeezed for volunteering," said Prof. Peter Elson, director of the Institute for Non-Profit Studies at Calgary's Mount Royal University.

Canadians who attend a place of worship weekly are more inclined to donate and make larger donations. That's why religious organizations benefitted from $4.26 billion in 2010 donations. The health sector ($1.59 billion) and social services ($1.16 billion) were next in popularity.

Prof. Charles Weinberg of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business said planned giving takes a backseat to impulse giving at this time of year. "It's the holiday season, you're in a good mood and what about, sadly, people that don't have enough food or kids that don't have toys?"

Telemarketing is unpopular and door-to-door appeals have declined substantially. Weinberg said volunteer door knockers are harder to find and residents may not be at home. If they are, they may not answer for fear of a scam. Supermarket checkout appeals and e-giving are among the alternatives.

"Non-profit organizations have to be inventive, have to recognize that the way people part with their money is changing," Weinberg said.

Canadian charities will be forced to adapt for future Christmases. By 2019, Canada Post will stop delivering mail door-to-door in urban areas. CharityIntelligence.ca and CharityFocus.ca offer quick and easy ways to research charities' financial reports, before using portals like CanadaHelps.org and Chimp.net to contribute. Giving via text message is also highly convenient, especially for urgent appeals like disaster relief.

"You're going to see a lot more of it," Elson said. "Although the donation is relatively small, $5 or $10, the creative use of it will grow over time. Organizations are thinking about how they can instil a sense of immediacy around text giving."

Social media is a novel platform for charities to spread the word and get noticed in a crowded market; the pre-holidays Movember fundraiser for prostate cancer is a case in point.

But a UBC-led study, The Nature of Slacktivism, found a Facebook 'likes' for a certain cause often translated to no donation at all.

"Live generously this holiday season, you really should be concerned about others," Weinberg said.

"Choose wisely."

Unlucky '13 for some charities

Jan. 17

Lance Armstrong interview with Oprah Winfrey airs, in which the disgraced seven-time Tour de France winner and founder of the Livestrong cancer-fighting charity ends years of denials and admits to using blood doping and performance-enhancing drugs.

May 28

Nike, which cancelled its endorsement of Armstrong in late 2012, announces it would stop making Livestrong products at year's end. Nike sold more than 87 million yellow Livestrong wristbands around the world and raised $100 million for the charity.

June 15-16

British Columbia Ride to Conquer Cancer, from Surrey to Seattle, goes ahead without national sponsor Enbridge's name on the marquee. The controversy over the Calgary company's Northern Gateway oilsands pipeline proposal caused the B.C. Cancer Foundation to look for a new sponsor.

Aug. 1

Silver Wheaton, a multinational mining company based in Vancouver, is announced as the B.C. Ride to Conquer Cancer title sponsor for the next three years.

Oct. 7

TLC The Land Conservancy of B.C. is granted B.C. Supreme Court protection from creditors over $7.5 million in debts. Less than a month later, Justice Shelley Fitzpatrick set Jan. 20, 2014, as the deadline for a debt repayment plan.

Dec. 10

BBC Panorama airs a documentary exposing how Comic Relief U.K. invested money from donors in high-yield/high-controversy stocks like British American Tobacco and military contractor BAE Systems.

Total tax filers

24.8M

The number of tax filers in Canada, according to Statistics Canada: 24,841,630.

#1 Reason to donate

89%

Most Canadians listed compassion towards people as their reason for giving. Other answers given to Stats Can were belief in a cause (85 per cent), contributing to the community (79 per cent), being affected by the cause the organization supports (61 per cent), fulfilling religious obligations/beliefs (27 per cent) and recieving an income tax credit (23 per cent).

More coverage online

- **For more coverage on charities and giving in Canada visit us online at metronews.ca.**

Women slightly more generous

4%

Women were four per cent more likely to donate money to charities than men.

Man's gig is to give

Tonka trucks, hockey sticks, Barbie dolls, soccer balls and remote controlled minidrones are stacked on shelves of a modest, three-storey Vancouver warehouse — the secret Santa central, if you will.

The Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau, founded in 1930, helps 1,000 families directly and more than 40,000 children and youth around the region get toys, books and clothes for Christmas.

"It means a lot to me," said Angela Woods as she left the bureau's headquarters with Christmas surprises for her son. "If they didn't have this every year, I wouldn't know what to do. They're awesome up there, they are amazing."

It's the season for giving, and that means charities like the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau go from silent to crazy in a very short period.

"The bureau quietly chugs along, collecting toys, disbursing them to other bureaus and shelters, then we open for these three weeks," said executive director Chris Bayliss. "It goes from a quiet, boring, ugly warehouse on the Eastside to often full of volunteers and people, full of fun for a month."

The Christmas Bureau collects toys at big events throughout fall, from various events, and Bayliss says the ned is increasing.

"The regional role is changing, as Metro Vancouver grows further afield we get more and more working poor," Bayliss says. "I was brought up my whole life to believe this: We're all two paycheques away from being broke."

In 2001, the Christmas Bureau gave 17,000 donated toys to needy homes. This year, Bayliss estimates some 50,000 to 75,000 toys and books, plus about 5,000 clothes and coats, will put smiles on children's faces.

Bayliss and a part-timer are employed year-round. A dozen workers join for three to 10 weeks in the run-up to Christmas. He estimated volunteers worked 800 person hours on-site last December.

BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO

Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau executive director Chris Bayliss in the East Vancouver warehouse, among Okanagan apple bins used for sorting donations. BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

A good way to give

Transparency can aid charities

"Whether you're at the checkout counter, the Salvation Army kettles or when you get the mail, it's almost overwhelming how many 'asks' you get," said Charity Intelligence Canada managing director Kate Bahen.

Bahen's Toronto organization gauges transparency of nonprofits and publishes reports on the finances of 500 charities on its website. Bahen said Canadians deserve proof that their donations are spent wisely and make a difference.

"To whom much is given, much is expected," she said.

Charities must "more effectively report what did you do with the money, how did you spend it, who did you work with, what was the social impact?" Bahen said. "How did you help Canada?"

BOB MACKIN/FOR METRO

Knowing and giving

Canada Revenue Agency: Charities and Giving

All about registration and regulation of Canadian charities, for charities and donors alike.
cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng.

Imagine Canada CharityFocus

National charity whose cause is Canadian charities and non-profits operates a "one-stop source for information" about Canada's registered charities.
charityfocus.ca.

Charity Intelligence Canada

A 2006-founded not-for-profit aiming for transparency and accountability of Canadian charities."Be informed. Give intelligently. Have impact."
charityintelligence.ca.

Canada Helps

The national online charity portal — a "one-stop shop for online giving."
canadahelps.org.
@CanadaHelps

Canada's largest charities

1. Canadian Red Cross: $287.0
2. World Vision: $282.2
3. Canadian Cancer Society: $188.4
4. Salvation Army: $180.9
5. Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada: $124.0
6. United Way Toronto: $116.9
7. SickKids Foundation: $ 110.1
8. Plan International: $107.1
9. Aga Khan Foundation Canada: $98.0
10. Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation: $80.3

B.C.'s largest charities

1. University of B.C.: $77.1
2. B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation: $58.0
3. B.C. Cancer Foundation: $42.0
4. Vancouver Foundation: $ 36.0
5. Canadian Cancer Society (BC & Yukon) $34.8
6. VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation: $ 32.9
7. United Way of Lower Mainland: $ 32.0
8. Power to Change Ministries: $28.0
9. Terry Fox Foundation Canada: $23.5
10. Tides Canada Foundation: $20.5

Funds raised by donations, special events (in millions)

(Source: Charity Intelligence Canada)

More than 75 injured as ceiling of London theatre partially collapses

A woman stands bandaged and wearing a blanket given by emergency services following an incident at the Apollo Theatre on Shaftesbury Avenue in London, England, on Thursday during a performance at the height of the Christmas season. Police said there were "a number" of casualties. JOEL RYAN, INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packed house. An evening performance turned into a disaster as masonry came crashing down onto audience members

Plaster and dust rained down on a packed audience when the ceiling of a London, England, theatre partially collapsed Thursday night. More than 75 people were injured — seven seriously, authorities said.

The collapse at the Apollo Theatre took place around 8:15 p.m. during a performance of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.

Plaster and masonry from a section of the ceiling tumbled down, bringing parts of the theatre's balconies down with it onto the audience, police said.

More than 700 people were in the theatre at the time, according to the London Fire Brigade.

Officials said most of the injured were "walking wounded" with upper-body injuries, and that all are conscious and breathing.

Police and fire officials said it was too soon to say what had caused the partial collapse of the ceiling, but that a full investigation is being carried out.

"There is no suggestion at this stage that this was as a result of a criminal act. However, at this stage we are keeping an open mind," said Chief Superintendent Paul Rickett.

Dee Kearney said she was just three or four seats from the stage when an actor shouted "watch out!"

"Then what we felt was debris falling on us, a loud bang, and then all of a sudden there was a coat of dust," she said.

"Complete chaos" erupted as the debris rained down, said Martin Bostock, who came with his family to see the show.

"At first, we thought it was part of the show," he told Sky News. "Then I got hit on the head." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Treating the injured

- Theatregoers were treated by dozens of emergency workers in the street outside the Apollo and at a nearby theatre.
- London Ambulance Service said it had treated 76 patients, with 51 taken to hospitals. Seven people suffered "serious injuries" but there were no fatalities and none of the injuries are believed to be life-threatening.
- The fire department reported that all of those who were trapped in the Apollo have been rescued.
- Shaftesbury Avenue, normally one of London's busiest streets and teeming with pedestrians, was completely shut down by emergency workers.

'Ashley is at peace,' mom says after jury homicide verdict

The videotaped choking death of a teenager in her segregation cell six years ago was a homicide, a jury decided on Thursday, sparking calls for police to reopen their criminal investigation into the tragedy.

The Ashley Smith inquest decision drew a gasp from a packed coroner's courtroom, which also heard jurors make 104 recommendations on dealing with self-harming mentally ill women in federal prisons.

While the homicide decision is not a finding of legal liability, Smith's family lawyer immediately called for police to get involved, and lashed out at Correctional Service Canada.

"It is high time that those in charge are held accountable," Julian Falconer said.

The emotionally disturbed Smith, 19, of Moncton, N.B., strangled herself in her cell at the Grand Valley Institution in Kitchener, Ont., on Oct. 19, 2007. Guards, under orders from senior management against intervening as long as she was still breathing, waited too long to enter the cell and save her. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

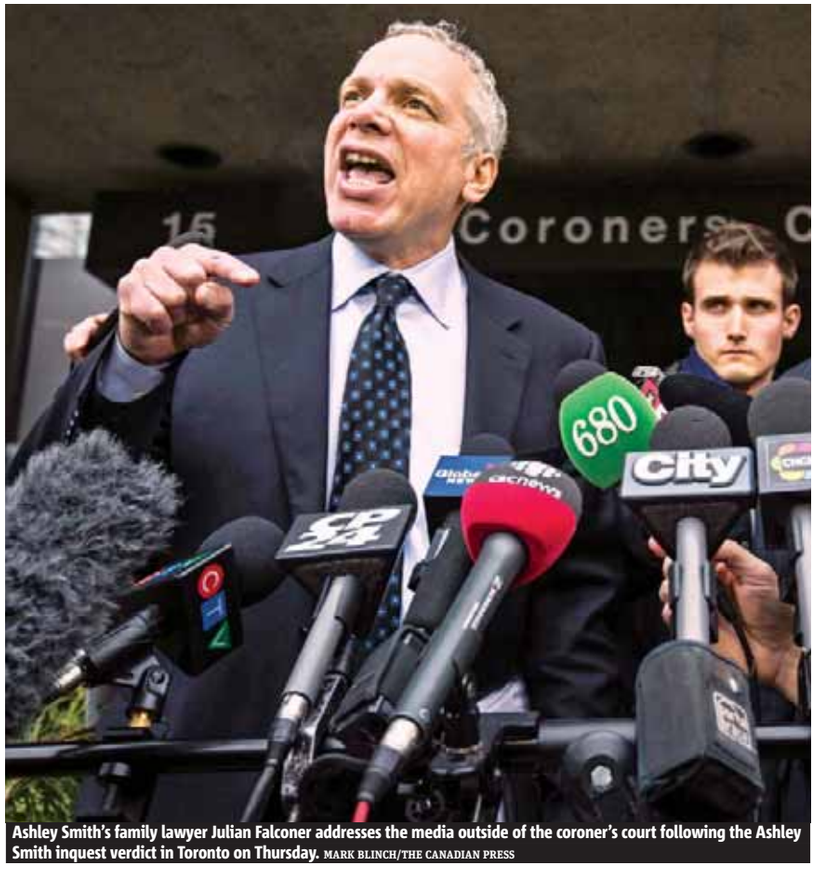
"What happened to Ashley should never have happened. The concoctions of her as being violent were false; they were concocted in a way to justify a punitive treatment of her."

Kim Pate, the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies

Recommendations

The inquest heard evidence from 83 witnesses over 107 days starting in January about how poorly equipped the prison system was to deal with the mentally ill young woman.

- Among their sweeping recommendations, jurors urged that female inmates with serious mental-health issues or self-harming behaviours should serve time in a specialized treatment facility.
- The focus in dealing with such women, jurors said, should be on therapy, with treatment decisions made by clinicians rather than by security management.



Ashley Smith's family lawyer Julian Falconer addresses the media outside of the coroner's court following the Ashley Smith inquest verdict in Toronto on Thursday. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CRTC

Canadian news to become top priority

Cable and satellite companies will be required to give their consumers the option of subscribing to Sun News Network and every other Canadian news channel, starting next spring.

Thursday's announcement by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission sets a mid-March deadline for cable and satellite companies to offer all Canadian news services either in bundles or a la carte.

"Canadian news services are an important part of our democracy," CRTC chair Jean-Pierre Blais said in a statement. "Canadians, as citizens, will have access to the news services that are of interest to them and will therefore have an opportunity to be exposed to a variety of opinions on matters of public concern."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Road kill?

Flipped rig spills tons of ham

A truck overturned in metro Atlanta, spilling tons of ham onto an interstate ramp.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports the truck was hauling 40,000 pounds of hams Thursday around 4 a.m. when it overturned, spilling its cargo south of Atlanta.

Authorities were working early Thursday to clear the ramp from Old National Highway to Interstate 85 southbound after the crash.

The cab of the truck was destroyed in the crash, which also caused a diesel fuel spill.

Truck driver, Rigo Vargas, said he was hauling the hams to Texas when he wrecked. He said he banged his head against the door when the rig flipped over, but wasn't seriously hurt.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toronto Mayor Rob Ford walks by a statue of Santa as he leaves city hall on Dec. 13. Ford is offering husbands tips on what to get their wives for Christmas.

MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ho, ho, hold the Christmas presents?

'Tis the season to cash in. Mayor's gift-giving suggestions draw mix of sarcasm, amusement and irritation

Rob Ford's tips to husbands on what to buy their wives for Christmas earned him ridicule and some angry comments Thursday.

Speaking during his weekly appearance on a Washington radio show, Rob Ford said he planned to give his wife "just money."

"Women love money," the mayor said to the hosts of Sports Junkies on 106.7 The Fan. "You give them a couple of thousand bucks and they're happy."

Ford added that while he planned to get his wife "some treats on the side," his big gift to her would be "a nice cheque."

"I get a basket and flowers and a little bit of this and that, but at the end of the day she wants her cash," he said. "So I give her a nice cheque and we're all happy."

Ford's wife, Renata, who is seldom seen in public, came to her husband's defence last month after he spouted an obscenity on live TV while denying allegations contained in police documents submitted in court.

The mayor's latest comments drew a mix of sarcasm, amusement and irritation from online commenters.

"Rob Ford's understanding/respect for women is astounding," tweeted one woman.

"Dear Rob Ford, some women don't want money as gifts. I for instance, want a PlayStation 4."

"Buy your wife a gift," tweeted another.

Quoted

"Women love money. You give them a couple thousand bucks and they're happy."
Rob Ford

Meanwhile, some poked fun at the mayor while referencing some of his other controversial statements.

"Rob Ford ... Christmas gifts are easy to give especially when I'm in a drunken stupor," tweeted one man.

"Women love money and men love crack. A heartwarming insight into Christmas at the Rob Ford household," tweeted another.

After months of denying reports that he had been filmed smoking what appeared to be crack cocaine, Ford admitted he had smoked the drug about a year ago in one of his "drunken stupors."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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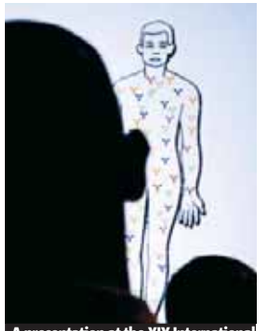
Epilepsy drug offers promise in AIDS fight

'Works beautifully' in human tissue. Scientists believe it could prevent HIV from attacking the immune system



A presentation at the XIX International AIDS Conference in Washington in July. CAROLYN KESTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Can an experimental drug developed to treat epilepsy block the AIDS virus? A preliminary lab study suggests it's possible, and researchers are eager to try it in people.

Scientists experimented with the drug after uncovering details of how they believe HIV cripples the immune system to bring on AIDS.

When tested in human tissues in the laboratory, the drug "works beautifully" to prevent HIV from destroying key cells of the immune system, said Dr. Warner Greene of Gladstone Institutes in San Francisco. Those results appear in a paper by Greene and others published Thursday in Nature.

Researchers have long known HIV infects some vital CD4 cells in the immune system and turns them into virus-producing factories, killing them in the process. But far more cells die without undergoing that transformation.

The new work provides evidence that HIV enters these cells but fails to produce a full-blown infection, and in response the cells trigger a lethal attack on themselves by the immune system.

It's "more of a suicide than a murder," Greene said. "I believe this is the major mechanism through which CD4 cells are depleted, which is the hallmark of AIDS."

The epilepsy drug, which is not on the market, blocks an enzyme that the research identified as playing a key role in the immune system attack.

Prior studies of the drug in people show it is safe, Greene said. So researchers are talking to the drug company about testing it in people infected with HIV. No timeline for the studies has been set, he said.

Greene said if such studies are successful, the drug might be used in people whose HIV resists standard drugs. It might also be useful as a temporary treatment to keep HIV at bay for people who can't immediately get standard drugs, he said. It's even possible, he says, that the enzyme-blocking drug might help scientists eradicate the virus from the body.

It's not clear yet whether the enzyme-blocking approach will produce a practical therapy for HIV-infected people, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who was not involved in the work.

But the new research behind that strategy is "an important advance" toward understanding how HIV kills immune system cells, he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Love between a rock and a hard place

A couple shares a tender moment in front of a poster of jailed Ukrainian former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko during a rally in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Thursday. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has been facing massive protests over his decision to spike a pact with the EU in favour of Russia. A $15-billion bailout from Moscow, says Russian President Vladimir Putin, was aimed at helping a partner in difficulties. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists raided, Mubarak's sons acquitted

Egypt's military-backed authorities on Thursday stepped up their crackdown on liberal icons of the 2011 uprising against Hosni Mubarak, with security forces storming the headquarters of a rights group to arrest six activists, including a prominent youth organizer.

Hours after the early morning raid in downtown Cairo, a criminal court acquitted Hosni Mubarak's two sons and his last prime minister of corruption charges in a case involving a land sale some 20 years ago. The sons remain in detention on other corruption charges.

Five of the activists were released after nearly seven hours. One of them, lawyer Mahmoud Bilal, described in a news conference how plainclothes policemen blindfolded, beat and verbally abused them.

Thursday's events will likely fuel growing suspicions that the government is prepared to accommodate Mubarak-era figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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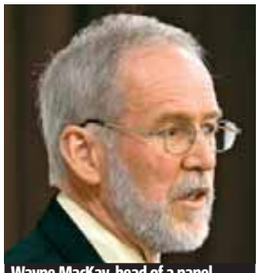
Saint Mary's needs code of conduct: Panel

Frosh chant fallout. Report stresses importance of changing norms that gave rise to sex-assault-promoting behaviour at university



Wayne MacKay, head of a panel formed after a frosh-week chant that glorified sexual assault, released his report on Thursday. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A panel launched in the aftermath of a frosh-week chant that glorified the sexual assault of young girls delivered a report Thursday calling on Saint Mary's University to develop a school-wide code of conduct.

The report makes 20 recommendations aimed at fostering a cultural change at the Halifax school to prevent sexual violence and encourage respectful behaviour.

It says the chant at Saint Mary's University, along with a similar one sung during an orientation week event at the University of British Columbia, highlighted broad societal challenges that need to be addressed rather than issues specific to youth culture.

"Hypersexualized songs, photos, movies and advertisements are omnipresent. Alcohol and drug problems abound — even among public figures that are supposed to be role models," says the 110-page report.

"The Internet and social media are forces for good but also have a much darker side like easy access to pornography, cyberbullying and the deterioration of people's capacity to form meaningful 'in-person' relationships."

Wayne MacKay, a law professor at Dalhousie University, was appointed to lead the panel that consulted with students, faculty members and alumni about ways to avoid similar incidents in the future.

MacKay said the code of conduct should establish clear standards of behavioural norms that would apply to all members of the university community and there should be consequences for people who breach it.

He said Saint Mary's University should also invest in education programs to teach students about healthy sexuality and the importance of consent.

The university set up the panel after a video surfaced on Instagram showing student leaders singing a chant about underage, non-consensual sex to about 400 new students at an event during orientation week in September.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unhealthy allegations

Pamela Mattock Porter leaves court after her request to have her bail conditions changed so she can spend the winter in Florida were denied Thursday in Montreal. Porter is charged along with her husband, Arthur Porter, the former chief executive officer of the McGill University Health Centre, of laundering $22.5 million that is alleged to have been paid in bribes by former SNC-Lavalin executives to secure the $1.3-billion super-hospital construction contract. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

China

Cartoon spurred violence: Court

State media say a Chinese court has ruled the producer of a hit kids cartoon is partly to blame for the injuries suffered by two children when their friend tied them to a tree and set them on fire in an imitation of a scene from the show. Xinhua News Agency says two young brothers were badly burned in April by the actions of their 10-year-old friend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pennsylvania

Defrocked pastor plans to fight anti-gay doctrine

A United Methodist Church pastor defrocked for officiating the gay wedding of his son says he intends to appeal the church officials' decision. Frank Schaefer says he will continue to fight to eradicate discriminatory language in church doctrine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lee Rigby, who was attacked and killed by two men in London.
MOD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

British extremists found guilty of killing soldier

London. Lee Rigby was run down by a car and repeatedly stabbed by one killer while the other attempted to cut off his head

Two British-born, al-Qaida-inspired extremists who considered themselves "soldiers of Allah" were convicted Thursday of murdering an off-duty serviceman in a frenzied attack on a London street.

The jury of eight women and four men deliberated for just 90 minutes before finding Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale guilty of murdering Fusilier Lee Rigby. They were acquitted of attempting to murder a police officer.

The two men will be sentenced early next year.

Neither defendant reacted as the jury foreman announced the verdicts. Adebolajo, at 29 the elder of the two, smiled and kissed a copy of the Qur'an as he was led down to the cells.

Adebolajo and 22-year-old Adebowale had pleaded not guilty to murder, though neither denied taking part in the May 22 attack.

The 25-year-old Rigby, a member of the Royal Fusiliers who had served in Afghanistan, was returning on foot to his barracks in south London when he was hit by the car being driven by Adebolajo. As the soldier lay on the ground, Adebowale repeatedly stabbed him and Adebolajo attempted to cut off his head.

After the attack the two killers waited at the scene, and then charged at a police car waving a machete and a gun.

Both men had denied trying to kill a police officer, saying they hoped to provoke police into shooting them. Adebowale's lawyer, Abbas Lakha said he had brandished a 90-year-old unloaded pistol so he "would achieve martyrdom."

Armed officers shot the two men several times — blowing off Adebowale's thumb as he raised the gun — then gave them first aid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Statement from victim's family

"We are satisfied that justice has been done. But ... no amount of justice will bring Lee back."

Statement read out by a police officer on behalf of Rigby's family who stood in tears outside London's Central Criminal Court.

Witness to the crime

'Like a butcher attacking a joint of meat'

One witness described the attack, which took place on a busy London street near a primary school, as looking "like a butcher attacking a joint of meat."

Adebolajo was filmed by a passer-by, covered in blood and holding a cleaver and a knife, justifying the attack "because Muslims are dying daily by British soldiers."

Adebolajo told police, in an interview, that they had decided to kill a British soldier, and Rigby had been targeted because he "was spotted first."

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Italy. Hunt on for serial killer let out of jail on good-behaviour pass

Italian police on Thursday conducted a manhunt for a serial killer who was allowed to leave a Genoa prison on a two-day good behaviour pass to see his elderly mother in Savona, on the Ligurian coast, but failed to return.

Bartolomeo Gagliano is armed and "dangerous," and might have driven across the nearby border into France, Genoa police said. Gagliano being granted a good behaviour pass despite a record of escapes and violence sparked an outcry in Italy.

Authorities said while Gagliano was out on the two-day pass to visit his mother, he forced a bakery worker at gunpoint to start driving him away. He later ordered the driver out of the car and drove off himself.

A Genoa newspaper reported Gagliano had received two good behaviour passes earlier this year, and that both times Gagliano returned to prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gagliano's crimes

Courts held Bartolomeo Gagliano, now 55, responsible for the fatal stoning of one prostitute and the wounding of another in 1981, but ruled him mentally incapable of understanding the crime and ordered him to an asylum for the criminally insane, according to authorities.

- After escaping in 1989 from the asylum, he killed, along with another man, a female transsexual and a male transvestite, and was again sent to a criminal asylum for psychiatric treatment, authorities quoted in Italian news reports said.

Freed Gitmo detainee claims he was tortured

Mentally ill. Ibrahim Idris has spent much of his 11 years at Guantanamo in psychiatric treatment

One of two Sudanese Guantanamo detainees who arrived home Thursday after release from the U.S.-run facility in Cuba said his jailers had "systematically tortured" him, with punishment "doubled" for those who attempted hunger strikes.

Ibrahim Idris made his remarks in a news conference in Khartoum, hours after arriving in a U.S. military plane along with Noor Othman Mohammed.

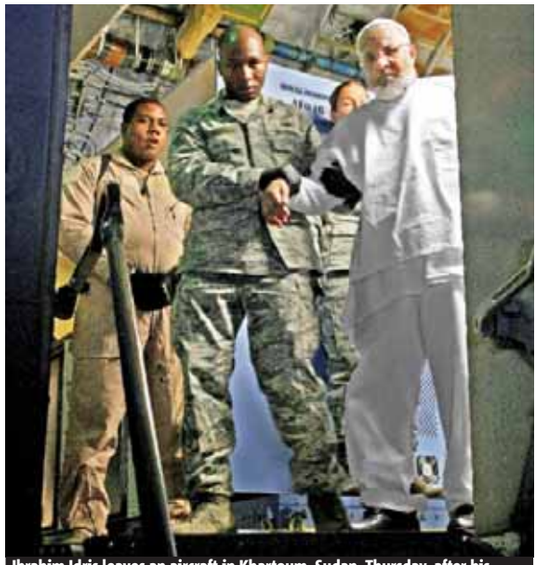
Mohammed pleaded guilty in February 2011 to terrorism offences in a plea deal that spared him the possibility of a life sentence. He was sentenced to 14 years, and all but 34 months were suspended.

Frail and speaking weakly, Idris said, "we have been subjected to meticulous, daily torture," adding that those who tried to hold a hunger strike were "double tortured … on an isolated island, surrounded by weapons."

Hunger strikes have been employed by men held at Guantanamo since shortly after the prison opened in January 2002. Human rights groups, lawyers and the media had long used the number of hunger strikers as a measure of discontent in the prison.

Of the 160 detainees still being held at Guantanamo Bay, only a handful of prisoners are currently facing charges, including five men accused of involvement in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ibrahim Idris leaves an aircraft in Khartoum, Sudan, Thursday, after his release from Guantanamo Bay. ABD RAOUF/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dennis Rodman back in N. Korea for B-ball game

An unlikely friendship. Ex-NBA star organizing exhibition game with other ex-NBAers for Kim Jong-un's birthday

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman
DAVID GUTTENFELDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrived in North Korea on Thursday to meet leader Kim Jong-un and put the finishing touches on plans to bring 12 ex-NBA players to Pyongyang for a Jan. 8 exhibition game marking the leader's birthday.

Rodman said the game is on track despite the recent execution of Kim's uncle in a dramatic political purge.

Rodman's visit comes less than a week after North Korea announced the execution of Jang Song Thaek, an unprecedented fall from grace for one of the most powerful figures in the country. Jang's execution sparked speculation by foreign analysts over the future of the Kim regime.

But officials in Pyongyang say Jang's removal has not caused any instability. Rodman's visit, should it proceed uneventfully, could be a sign that Kim is firmly in charge.

Rodman and Kim have struck up an unlikely friendship since the Hall of Famer travelled to the secretive state for the first time in February with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by New York-based VICE television. He remains the highest-profile American to meet Kim since the leader inherited power from his father, Kim Jong-il, in 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students allowed to retrieve belongings as tributes go on

Students hug at a tribute site Thursday for severely wounded student Claire Davis, who was shot during a school attack six days earlier at Arapahoe High School, in Centennial, Colo. Students were allowed back into school Thursday to retrieve their belongings. BRENNAN LINSLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supreme Court ruling

Cops denied counsel for notes

Allowing police officers under investigation by watchdogs to consult with lawyers before preparing their notes is "anathema" to transparency and public trust in that process, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled Thursday.

The high-court ruling, by a margin of 6-3, pitted officers against the families of two men shot dead by Ontario's provincial police in separate incidents in 2009.

The ruling offers clarity to the regulations that govern Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, which investigates violent incidents involving police officers.

"First, consultation with counsel at the note-making stage is antithetical to the dominant purpose of the legislative scheme because it risks eroding the public confidence that the SIU process was meant to foster," wrote Justice Michael Moldaver for the majority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

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Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Europe launches star-mapper satellite

This photo, taken Saturday, shows the Gaia satellite at the Kourou space base, French Guiana. MANUEL PEDOUSSUAT/EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'We want depth.' The mission's goal is like switching from two-dimensional movies to 3D, says ESA scientist

The European Space Agency launched its star-surveying satellite Gaia into space Thursday, hoping to produce the most accurate three-dimensional map of the Milky Way and to better understand the evolution of our galaxy.

The satellite was lifted into space from French Guiana aboard a Russian-made Soyuz rocket, the agency said. Soon after the launch, Gaia unfurled its 10-metre circular sun shield — a crucial moment in the mission. The shield protects the spacecraft's sensitive instruments from the rays of the sun while simultaneously collecting solar energy to power the spacecraft.

"Everything was super smooth," said Paolo Ferri, head of mission operations at the Paris-based European Space Agency.

Gaia is now heading for a stable orbit around a point known as Lagrange 2 — some 1.5 million kilometres away on the opposite side of the Earth from the sun. Once it gets there next month, the satellite's instruments will be switched on and it will follow what Ferri described as "a very peculiar pattern" designed to keep its back always turned to the sun.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cost cutting. Military set to announce demise of $2-billion truck order

The Canadian Army is cancelling a $2-billion order for new armoured vehicles after another lengthy, troubled procurement went wrong.

Sources tell The Canadian Press that military officials are set to announce the cancellation of an order for 108 close-combat vehicles on Friday.

Bids by three defence contractors — Nexter, BAE Systems Inc. and General Dynamics Land Systems Inc. — had been set to expire this coming Monday, and the military has decided not to pick a winner.

The program has been hanging in the balance for months after the Army signalled it was worried whether it could afford to train, operate and maintain the new set of vehicles in a time of tight budgets.

Having yet another major military purchase go down the drain could be a political black eye for the Conservatives, who've struggled to deliver on an extensive list of military equipment.

In addition to the armoured vehicles, National Defence and Public Works in the summer of 2012 cancelled and subsequently restarted a program to buy 1,500 logistics trucks for the military.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Breach of peace

Man charged after climbing tree with Christmas lights

A Connecticut man named Noel who climbed a tree decorated with Christmas lights has been arrested.

The electricity for the lights was cut as police and firefighters responded around noon Wednesday after Noel Delgado climbed the tree on the New Haven Green, a 16-acre park in downtown New Haven near Yale University.

Delgado had two banners in the tree. Police Lt. Jeff Hoffman told the New Haven Register he shouted about various causes.

Officers talked with Delgado and persuaded him to climb down. Delgado has been charged with breach of peace. Police say he refused medical treatment.

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New casino to bring a little rock 'n' roll swagger to town

'A new form of entertainment.' Hard Rock Casino to feature 80,000 square feet of gaming, memorabilia — and big musical acts

The first official Hard Rock Casino in Canada opens its doors to 80,000 square feet of remodelled casino on Friday with a blast of musical resonance, as exemplified by the giant iconic guitar sign out front.

"You're supposed to get that hit when you come in," said Warwick Stone, the Hard Rock Casino's memorabilia curator. "Our foundation roots are in rock 'n' roll right from the beginning."

Some memorabilia includes clothing worn in music videos and on stage, personal belongings and autographed photos of Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen and Madonna. A Pedicab Elvis Presley rode in will also be featured among the other memorabilia. While some of the displays are permanent, about half of the collection will change at least every two years.

The former Boulevard Casino also accommodates over 950 slot machines and popular table games such as blackjack and roulette. Instead of increasing the square footage, everything was shifted around, said executive director Raj Mutti.

"They just reconfigured everything to better utilize space … just to make things flow better, look better and make it more functional as well."

The Theatre at the Hard Rock Casino Vancouver will replace the Red Robinson Show Theatre named after the local radio and TV personality.

However, the name didn't change without a fight. An online petition to keep Robinson's name collected over 7,500 signatures. There will be a permanent display dedicated to the man who brought rock 'n' roll to Vancouver.

Warwick Stone, memorabilia curator of the new Hard Rock Casino, poses for a photo in front of the casino's Jimi Hendrick's display. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

The interior of the 1,100-seat theatre won't be altered much, although the lobby has been renovated. Local band Hedley will kick off opening day with musicians like Macy Gray, Taboo from the Black Eyed Peas and Our Lady Peace performing in the coming months.

"One of the big things we're focusing on is a new form of entertainment, and a lot of new acts that we haven't had before," said Mutti.

SINDHU DHARMARAJAH/METRO

B.C.'s slow growth before megaprojects good: Report

With lucrative megaprojects on the horizon, British Columbia will see only modest growth in 2014, according to a new report.

In its annual market intelligence report, BTY Group — a consulting firm for developers and public-private partnerships — forecasts one to two per cent construction-cost escalation in the province.

In a recovering economy and a year where the government admitted its jobs plan had stalled, 2014 promises a modest improvement.

For example, the report cites a wages and benefits survey from the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of British Columbia, where its members have budgeted for average wage increases of three per cent next year.

BTY senior cost consultant Angela Lai says the stability is positive as B.C. gears up for multi-billion-dollar investments in hydroelectric, mining and oil and gas sectors in the coming years.

If B.C. wants to capitalize on those projects, a massive boost in skills training is required now, she said.

The provincial government has touted that liquefied natural gas development itself could potentially generate as many as 100,000 jobs.

"We need to address the skills shortage now. It takes years to develop those skill sets," Lai said. "People don't tend to react until something happens."

Post-secondary universities and trade institutes need to recognize the future demand for jobs the megaprojects will bring, and forward-thinking students need to realize there's money to be had, she said.

It's not just fossil fuels — Lai sees an increased demand for green jobs and expertise in renewable energy as well.

If British Columbians can't do those jobs, the international labour market will.

"We're already starting to see that," warned Lai, adding that attracting international talent can significantly drive up labour costs.

After 2014, BTY forecasts a construction-cost escalation of two to three per cent in the following two years.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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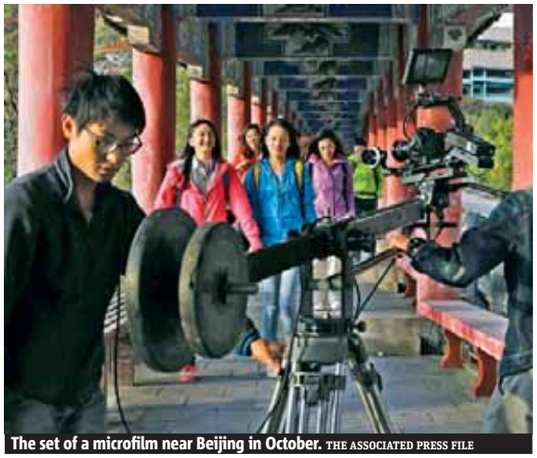
Microfilms give people of China a voice online



The set of a microfilm near Beijing in October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Big impact.
The small films have 'become a democratic means for expression'

People in China watch them in the subway, on buses, even as they walk down a sidewalk: Homegrown short films that are low-budget, intensely popular and accessible to anyone with a smartphone.

Microfilms, uploaded to Chinese YouTube-style and video-streaming sites, offer themes and subjects not shown in the country's strictly censored cinemas. And thanks to video-capturing smartphones and basic editing software available on laptops, anyone can be a director.

Democratic medium

"The barrier for making a film has been brought so low it really has become a democratic means for expression."
Chinese film critic Raymond Zhou

The genre of microfilms, usually less than 40 minutes long, has exploded in China over the past few years, stretching the boundaries of what can be shown, including pieces on gender and homosexuality. It is constrained by the self-censorship the government requires of the country's video-streaming sites, and it has not become overtly political.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not everyone's a fan

What started largely as a hobby among white-collar workers with a passion for cinema has become increasingly professional and profitable, and the content has rapidly veered into the lowbrow and trite as producers chase the mostly urban 20-something viewers.

- Sex and slapstick have come to dominate the genre, as opposed to the independent filmmaking in China of earlier decades that focused on social commentary about people on the bottom rungs of society, said Chinese documentary maker Jun Ren.
- "The microfilm generation is disappointing," Jun declared.

Take a bow, Canada

American happy Canada Post cutting home mail delivery

The announced demise of home mail delivery in Canada has prompted a celebratory reaction from one U.S. lawmaker, who longs to see his own country adopt a similar reform to end residential postal service.

Last week's news had Republican congressman Darrell Issa issuing a statement saying he "applauded" Canada for applying a principle found in his own bill to overhaul the United States Postal Service.

"As technology advances, the Canadian people are changing the way they use paper mail. Canada Post has recognized this reality and responded to it. The Canadian government is supportive of its decision to modernize," said the California representative.

"The American people have also changed the way they use paper mail and the cash-strapped United States Postal Service must respond accordingly."

Americans are grappling, like their neighbours to the north and more distant nations around the planet, with ways to reform the post office in an era of technology-driven disruption of traditional business models.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Turning 'pleather' into 'vegan leather'

Faux no to faux yes. Pleasantly surprise the fashion plate on your gift list with something fake

Finding a knockoff version of the fur you want under the Christmas tree would ordinarily be a disappointment.

Not this year.

Faux is the new black this season for holiday gifts. But this isn't the "pleather" of the 1980s — that cheap, plastic-looking material made popular by Michael Jackson during his Thriller days.

A $198 fuzzy brown coat at Banana Republic has a prominently placed tag that reads "faux fur."

Dresses with "vegan leather" accents are flying off virtual shelves at shopbop.com. And at luxury retailer Barney's, a Marni faux leather three-quarter sleeve jacket sells for $1,900.

Faux is gaining popularity in part because there have been advances in technology enabling designers to make better-looking fakes. In a still-shaky economy that has made Americans more frugal, faux also can be seen as a good way to be trendy without breaking the bank. And a movement toward socially conscious shopping makes some people feel better about faux purchases.

It helps that some A-listers have given faux their seal of approval. Models have been seen on the runway wearing faux leather pieces in shows for big-name designers like Tom Ford and Rag & Bone. And actresses Anne Hathaway and Kate Hudson have strutted on the red carpet in faux leather and fur.

While it's difficult to pin down overall sales for faux goods, retailers say they are benefiting from their growing popularity. Banana Republic's $69.50 faux-fur neckwarmer and faux-fur leopard vests have been bestsellers. Target says faux fur home goods like pillows and throws are performing "exceptionally well." And Macy's says new techniques used with faux leather, like scalloping and quilted stitching, have given tops and jackets "new relevance."

Banana Republic's Fair Isle faux-fur neck warmer.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It used to be that 'faux' meant less expensive and quality less than desirable, but not any longer," said Josh Saterman, vice-president and fashion director for millennials at Macy's. "Faux is a part of our next evolution to our fashion 'must-haves.'"

Andrew Dent, who is a vice-president at global materials consultancy Material Connexion, says that the trend is being fuelled by the fact that faux fur and leather are nearly indistinguishable from the real thing nowadays. He said that's because designers are replacing older plastic like PVC with improved polyurethane that is more leather-like to the touch. They're also tapering synthetic fibers to make faux fur seem more luxe and softer.

The improved quality is what spurred Brandon Vidal, 28, to buy two faux fur blankets as Christmas presents this year for his mother and a roommate. "They feel great," said Vidal, who lives in Calgary. "They're warm and cozy and it is freezing up here in Canada."

In addition to better technology, a growing social consciousness about buying fabric that doesn't involve cruelty to animals has made faux fashion more acceptable. "The fact that this is the season's big trend has to do with a social movement toward greater acceptability of faux versus real," said Alison Levy, senior manager at consulting firm Kurt Salmon. "It's seen as the right and responsible choice as opposed to cheaper value choice."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bargain is always in style

"Even though they're faux, they look real, and they're bigger than you can get if they were real ... Plus, they're a lot cheaper."

Kristen Clerkin, 23, from Whitney Point, N.Y., is hoping to get faux pearls for Christmas this year because she thinks they're classic and classy, not to mention more affordable than real ones.

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THE METRO LIST

Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Twitter vending machines. Telus created a Twitter-enabled vending machine at the Pacific Centre Shopping Mall in Vancouver that rewards tweeting consumers with toy pandas as part of a partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. They're on to something, I hope. In the future, I'll be able to tweet a vending machine using a hashtag such as #bbqdoritos, and out that bag will come.

2 Instagram messaging. The social media photo site has introduced Instagram Direct, allowing you to message your buds photos and videos. Hmmm, isn't Snapchat for private messaging someone a photo or video? (Well, true, those disappear). My wish is to someday be tweeting a Instagram photo via direct message on Snapchat using Facebook. That will simplify everything.

3 Beyoncé's social media blitz. Foregoing traditional media channels, Beyoncé released her latest album with a simple "Surprise!" to her more than eight million Instagram followers — and the full album appeared for sale on iTunes. It hit a record for albums sold on the site. Goes to show (again) that sometimes the best marketing is no marketing. Of course, it helps if you're a pop culture icon.

4 Arlene Dickinson. One of my fave stars of Dragons' Den has a new book out, All In, about balancing your personal and professional life when you're a entrepreneur. I fancy myself an entrepreneur, so I'll be reading it this Christmas morning when I receive it as a stocking stuffer from my wife. If she reads this.

5 Stuff on Scout's Head. Photos of pets on the Internet — particularly cats and dogs — do really, *really* well. The most famous is Grumpy Cat, discovered on news site Reddit. An up-and-coming contender perhaps is the Canadian version: Stuff on Scout's Head, which features a pit bull with stuff that his owner puts on his head — everything from a toque to a pie to a skateboard. I cannot explain the Internet.

6 Peterborough Turkey. A picture of a turkey standing in a transit shelter next to a Canada Post box in Peterborough, Ont., went viral this week. The turkey had been stopping traffic recently on a major road. At least it's learning to take the bus now. So why else did this turkey pic catch on? "Turkeys — they are like kittens with beaks," one person tweeted.

7 Survivor Brand. Tyson Apostol won the 27th edition of the TV show Survivor in a rather lacklustre season that ended with the lowest rating for a Survivor finale ever. With the iconic reality show slumping in ratings in recent years, it may be time to reinvent the brand. Add more villains. Or have only villains. The world loves watching villains on TV. Or just let all competitors use social media.

8 Carl McCoid. This guy from Yorkshire, England, keeps getting tattoos of Miley Cyrus. He now has 22 different ones of her. This guy is a human wrecking ball with Miley Cyrus all over him.

9 Sorry, we're great. A CNN post titled 10 Things Canada Does Better Than Anywhere Else got a lot of attention this week with its list that included apologizing, lake and cottage country, stand-in movie locations, humour and more. Sorry, but the only thing they missed is beer. We make (and drink) better beer than anyone, eh?

10 Scarlett Johansson and cheese. Under the headline: Scarlett Johansson Has Weird Feelings About Cheese, on NY Magazine, the actress was quoted as saying: "I don't eat it, but I love it ... I like to smell cheese, I like to watch people enjoying it and I like to encourage people to eat cheeses I know taste really good. But I don't eat it any more because my body just does better without it." Life doesn't get weirder or cheesier than that.

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ZOOM

Photo shoot goes swimmingly

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Museum has a few bones to pick

For most people, fish bones may be just an annoyance at dinnertime.

But a new exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature, in Ottawa, could give viewers a broader perspective.

X-rays of Arctic Fishes, opening Jan. 11, features images that show "the spectacular osteological architecture of fishes," such as this X-ray of a boa dragonfish (pictured), says museum ichthyologist (fish scientist) Noel Alfonso.

Fish are considered to have the most complex bone structures of all vertebrates. That makes osteology — the study of bones — more challenging with fish than with other animals possessing a spinal column.

As revealed in X-rays, the number of vertebrae can be used to differentiate one fish species from another, Alfonso said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skin, bone and dinner

- An X-ray of a 14-centimetre-long boa dragonfish (not pictured), reveals a fish in its stomach. That makes this specimen a rare find, since "these things can often go for months without feeding," said Alfonso.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

If the dark mornings, cold evenings and slushy all-the-times have you taking your fitness routine inside, don't sweat it. Or rather do (but without the monotony of the exercise machine). From the makers of Guitar Hero, Goji Play is the latest 'gamercising' gimmick helping gamers get to the gym. Using two wireless controllers and a clip-on sensor, gym-goers can turn their treadmill into a gaming console while blasting away Christmas calories. As you ramp up the speed on the stepper, watch as your character gains power and speed — while keeping track of your sweaty stats (kilometres, calories, etc.). Here's a couple of games to get you started.

Fisticuffs:
Get in the ring with fighters including a drunken sailor, angry Viking and top-hat wearing bar keeper.

Shine Runner:
Cruise around the bayou in a fan boat picking up moonshine, snake oil and crawdads as ammo to keep you in the game.

Super Moto X:
Race through a city of the future while jumping over obstacles, avoiding slow zones and steering clear of the 5-0.

Comments

RE: 'Outdated' Nova Scotia Law Requires All Men To Shovel Highway Snow, published online Dec. 18

Pssh. Subsection A: All physically fit female persons between the ages of 16 and 60 are required to make hot chocolate with marshmallows on the highways during winter for the male persons who work with their shovels on the highways during winter. **Aeric posted to metronews.ca**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

metro

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Synopsis

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues opened this week bringing confident but thick news anchor Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) back to the big screen after a nine year absence. The first film made catchphrases like, "I love scotch. Scotchy, scotch, scotch," and the names Brick Tamland (Steve Carell), Brian Fantana (Paul Rudd) and Champion "Champ" Kind (David Koechner) household words. In celebration of the return of the team from San Diego's KVWN Channel 4 the Reel Guys have a look back at the career of funnyman Will Ferrell.

Will Ferrell reprises his role as blustering anchorman Ron Burgundy in Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues. CONTRIBUTED

Where there's a Will, there's a way to laugh

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Funnyman Ferrell. In honour of the return of Ron Burgundy, the Reel Guys review their favourite Ferrell flicks

Richard: Mark, I think Will Ferrell is one of the bravest comedic actors working today; someone willing to do anything for a laugh. Trouble is, I often don't laugh. Anchorman is laugh-out-loud funny. Ditto Elf and Old School, but sometimes I feel he has to rein the manic energy in, do half as much and maybe be twice as funny. Having said that, the Shark Week jokes in Step Brothers really make me giggle.

Mark: Richard, I share your ambivalence toward Ferrell. He's not my go-to guy for funny. Still, he's done some great work. My favourite Will Ferrell movies are two indie films he's starred in: Stranger Than Fiction and Everything Must Go. They're the equivalent of Jim Carrey's work in The Truman Show and Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. Maybe not huge crowd pleasers, but they show the true breadth of his talent.

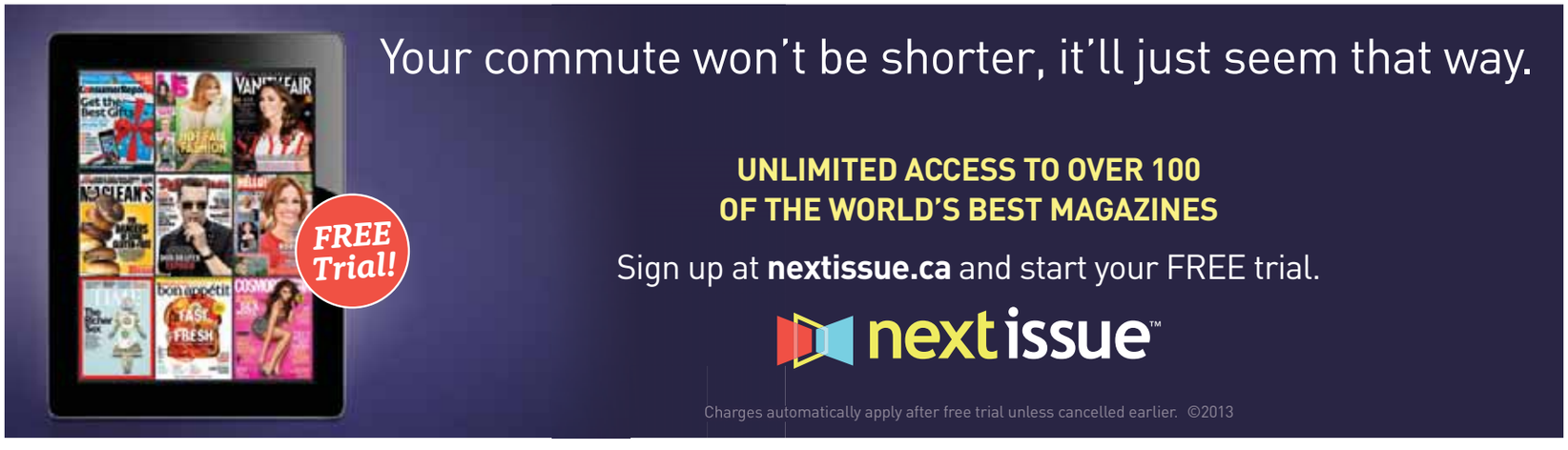
RC: I agree. I think Stranger Than Fiction is worth a rental. It's touching and funny, which for me is Ferrell's sweet spot. A Night at the Roxbury is a silly comedy but Ferrell's wide-eyed performance is the kind of thing I like from him. Outrageous, yes, but underneath the silly is a real guy. Sometimes I can't see the real guy underneath his characters and those are his movies that don't work for me. Except Zoolander. As fashion guru Mugatu he's so strange he dares you not to laugh at him.

MB: Yes, he's sometimes better in a supporting role in which his over-the-top zaniness doesn't sink the whole picture. Mugatu for sure, but also the mattress salesman in The Internship or Franz in The Producers. But generally, I find his man-child jock character wearying. Which is why, I think, Anchorman is such a successful movie. It's a Will Ferrell movie for people who don't care for Will Ferrell movies. Did you enjoy the sequel, Richard?

RC: I did. I think there is a lot of life left in Ron Burgundy. It's funny in an outrageous way. It's a bit too long, (and don't bother sitting through to the post credit scene unless you find the sight of Steve Carell eating cookies hilarious) but the buffoonery level is high in a season where serious drama seems to be the ticket.

In the last couple of weeks I have seen Ferrell, in character, sit in on some local newscasts and he fit right in. As long as there is media, egomaniac announcers and local news, there will be a place for Ron Burgundy.

MB: Yes, but let's not forget he's supported by a stellar cast of comic actors: Paul Rudd, Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Wiig. Even if Ferrell isn't your cup of tea, it's hard to believe this movie won't work.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Leo's just a sheep in big bad wolf clothes

Wolf of Wall Street. As a boy DiCaprio dreamed of working with Scorsese, and now they're co-conspirators

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Leonardo DiCaprio always wanted to be a Martin Scorsese actor. "I remember my father taking me to see one of his movies," the actor recalls. "He said, 'If you have the opportunity and a green light in this industry, there's one person you should work with.'"

It was the director of Mean Streets, Goodfellas, Raging Bull, After Hours.

And when DiCaprio became the biggest actor in the world, it wasn't too long before he was headlining Scorsese's Gangs of New York.

Their fifth film together — including The Departed and Shutter Island — was DiCaprio's idea. He read The Wolf of Wall Street, a tell-all memoir by unfathomably hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort, and felt it would fit Scorsese's sensibilities, in addition to being sobering commentary.

Leonardo DiCaprio plays hedonistic broker Jordan Belfort in Wolf of Wall Street, opening Dec. 25. CONTRIBUTED

"I thought [his book] was a reflection of everything that was wrong with today's society," he says, chuckling.

"Jordan gave into every carnal indulgence possible."

The film, written by Boardwalk Empire scribe Terence Winter, chronicles the many hedonistic exploits of Belfort, who rises from a nobody selling penny stocks by the thousands to schnooks to dominating the Financial District.

"He represents something within our very nature, something that is very wrong. You can point to those attributes to everything's going on in our world today," DiCaprio says. But he adds,

"He's not the problem. I quickly realized these weren't the fat cats that were destroying our economy. They were the street urchins. They were part of the underworld trying to create a little island and emulating Gordon Gekko," he explains, referencing Michael Douglas' slick-haired Wall Street villain (and, to some, an idol).

"They were trying to be the guys that were robbing our country of billions and billions of dollars."

DiCaprio spent time with Belfort, who he describes as reformed.

"He looks at this [period] as an isolated period in his life. He's been paying the price ever since, trying to pay his debt to everyone he ripped off."

Belfort even told him how to play high on 'ludes, for a lengthy sequence where he and the fellow broker played by Jonah Hill take too many drugs and find their bodies won't work. "He told me what quaaludes were like," he recalls. "I had him rolling around on the floor for me."

He also says he watched, on a loop, a YouTube clip called The World's Drunkest Man, in which someone tries to get a beer but his body won't let him.

As for reuniting again with Scorsese, he's predictably gushy, talking about a mantra he gave him: "As long as you portray these people for what they are, and you don't try to sugarcoat them or apologize for their actions or depict them in any way apart from what they are, audiences will go along with you."

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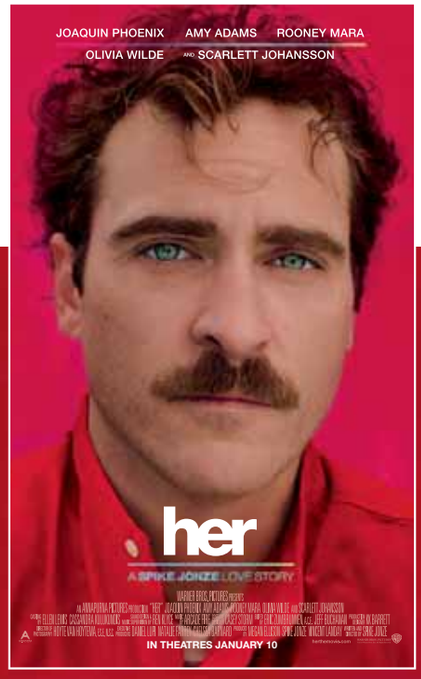
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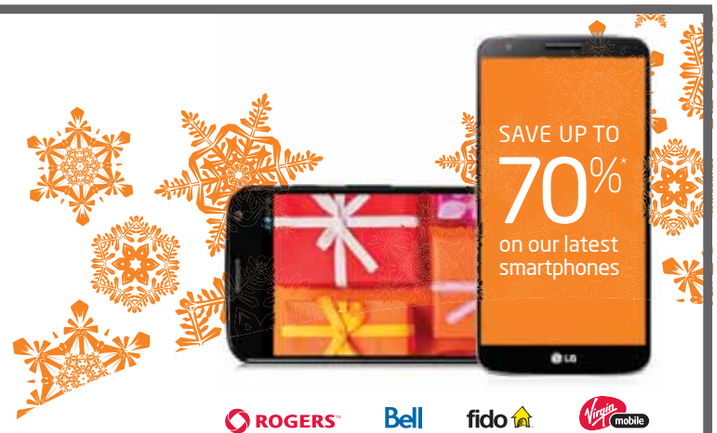

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Walking with Dinosaurs 3D

Directors. Barry Cook, Neil Nightingale

Stars. Charlie Rowe, Karl Urban

This is a really odd movie. It looks like a high-end educational documentary you'd see on the History Channel, but anyone with more than a Grade 2 reading level will find the story slow and clichéd. The computer animated story of a herd of migrating dinosaurs and the dangers they face is beautiful looking but dragged down by terrible voice work. Imagine Jurassic Park without Jeff Goldblum or the fun and you get the idea.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography Comedy

Saving Mr. Banks

Director. John Lee Hancock

Stars. Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson

The story of Walt Disney's (Tom Hanks) efforts to convince author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) to sell the rights to Mary Poppins is actually two stories folded into one. The first is a Hollywood tale, the second a psychological drama told in flashbacks about Travers's troubled father (Colin Farrell). Fine performances abound but this is Thompson's movie. Her portrayal of Travers is nuanced, split between the cantankerous woman she became with echoes of the innocent young girl she once was. **RICHARD CROUSE**

Crime/Drama

American Hustle

Director. David O. Russell

Stars. Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper

American Hustle sees con artists Irving Rosenfeld (Christian Bale) and Sydney Prosser (Amy Adams) threatened with arrest unless they cooperate with ambitious FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper). They help him run a complicated corruption investigation involving New Jersey mayor Carmen Polito (Jeremy Renner) but the sting gets out of control when the Mafia gets involved. Of the great ensemble cast Jennifer Lawrence really stands out in an entertainingly audacious movie.

RICHARD CROUSE

Horror/Mystery

Haunter

Director. Vincenzo Natali

Stars. Abigail Breslin, Michelle Nolden

Abigail Breslin (Little Miss Sunshine) toplines this solid Canadian chiller, a dark mood piece about a teenage girl who comes to realize that she and her kin are in fact dead while she tries to make contact with the living family occupying her home. Breslin is a solid Can-Con horror hero Vincenzo Natali (Splice) directs with artful elegance and Kubrickian detachment and Stephen McHattie (Pontypool) steals scenes as only he can. The film isn't particularly scary, however it oozes atmosphere.

CHRIS ALEXANDER

Biography

The Wagner Files

Director. Ralph Pleger

Stars. Samuel Finzi, Pegah Ferydoni

A truly unusual fusion of biographical and experimental moviemaking, The Wagner Files reconstructs the life of the legendary German composer through a series of stylized vignettes. The playfully severe, mock-investigative-report format is only semi-successful in breaking up the monotony of so much straightforward historical information, while animated segments strive to visualize images already made vivid by Wagner's music. Still, Ralph Pleger's lovingly assembled production is a genuine curiosity. **ADAM NAYMAN**

Hollywood brief

Shia LaBeouf in hot water over 'blatant' theft of artist's work

There may be legal ramifications for Shia LaBeouf after he acknowledged borrowing from another artist's work without giving proper credit.

LaBeouf debuted his short film, Howard Cantour.com, online on Monday starring Jim Gaffigan. It examines the life of an anguished online film critic. That was also the story line of a 2007 graphic novella by artist Daniel Clowes titled Justin M. Damiano. Clowes declined to comment directly, but according to his publisher, Fantagraphics' Eric Reynolds, Clowes "is exploring his legal options."

Reynolds said Wednesday he was "baffled" by the news of LaBeouf's project, which he and Clowes got wind of on Monday. "...LaBeouf just used the dialogue word for word. There is no ambiguity. ...This was so blatant and inexcusable..."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 20 TO THURS., DEC. 26 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Dunbar Theatre
4555 Dunbar Street

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Mon 12-3:15-7-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri 3:15-7-10:15 Sat-Sun 12-3:15-7-10:15 Tue 12-3:15-7 Wed 3:15-7 Thu 12-3:15-7-10:15

Fifth Avenue Cinemas
2110 Burrard Street

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:35-4-7:15-10:15 Tue 12:35-4-7:15 Wed 4-7:15-10:15 Thu 12:35-4-7:15-10:15
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:20 Tue 12:20-3:20-6:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12-3:30-6:55-10:20 Tue 12-3:30-6:55 Wed 3:30-6:55-10:20 Thu 12-3:30-6:55-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Mon 12:30-3:40-6:45-9:55 Tue 12:30-3:40-6:45
Inside Llewyn Davis (14A) Wed 4:15-7-9:30 Thu 1-4:15-7-9:30
Nebraska (PG) Fri-Mon 12:50-4:10-7:10-9:45 Tue 12:50-4:10-7:10 Wed 3:50-7:10-9:45 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:45
Philomena (PG) Wed 3:40-6:45-9:20 Thu 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:20

Pacific Cinémathèque
1131 Howe Street

Comedy Program (STC) Sat 4:30
Equinox Flower (STC) Thu 8:50
Family Program (STC) Sat 3
Festival Program (STC) Sat 6:30
A Hen in the Wind (STC) Fri 9 Mon 6:30
Late Autumn (STC) Fri 6:30 Sun 8:20 Thu 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue-Wed
The Shortest Day (STC) Sat 1
There Was a Father (STC) Sun 6:30 Mon 8:10
Tokyo Story (STC) Thu 4

Park Theatre
3440 Cambie Street

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed 3:20-6:40-9:50 Thu 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:50
Philomena (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:10 Sat-Mon 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:10 Tue 1:50-4:20-6:50

Rio on Broadway
1660 E. Broadway

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 1:30-4-6:45-9:15 Sat-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:30
Elf (G) Fri 11

Scotiabank Theatre
Vancouver 900 Burrard St.

American Hustle (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-12:45-3:35-4:05-6:50-7:20-10:10-10:35 Wed-Thu 11:05-12:10-12:35-3:20-3:55-6:40-7:10-10-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-10 Mon 12:50-3:50-6:55-10 Tue 12:50-3:50-7-10 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:25 Fri 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Sat 11:15-2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Sun 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Mon 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Tue 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Wed-Thu 11:15-2:10-5:05-8:05-11
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sat 1-1:45-4:35-5:20-8:15-9 Sun 1:45-4:35-5:20-8:15-9 Mon-Tue 1-1:45-4:35-5:20-8:15-9 Wed-Thu 1:45-5:20-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Mon 2:50-6:30-10:15 Tue 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Wed-Thu 11:50-3:25-7-10:35 Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:45-10:20 Mon 12-3:25-7-10:40 Tue 11:30-3-6:45-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12:55-4:10-7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:15-7:35-10:55
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed-Thu 11-2:15-2:55-6:10-6:50-10:10-10:45

Vancity Theatre
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street

An American in Paris (STC) Sun 4:15 Mon 1
Barton Fink (STC) Sat 4:10
Bay of Angels (STC) Thu 6:30
The Big Lebowski (14A) Sat 9
Blood Simple (STC) Fri 10:15
Donkey Skin (STC) Tue 2:15 Thu 2:15
Exhibition: Manet — Portraying Life (G) Mon 3:05
Hannah and Her Sisters (STC) Thu 4:15
The Hudsucker Proxy (STC) Sat 6:30
Lola (STC) Mon 6:30
Miller's Crossing (STC) Sat 2
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed
The Purple Rose of Cairo (STC) Thu 8:30
Raising Arizona (STC) Sat 12:15
The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (STC) Tue 6:30
The Wagner Files (STC) Fri 8:30 Sun-Mon 8:30
When Jews Were Funny (STC) Fri 6:30 Sun 12:15 Tue 4:15
Woody Allen: A Documentary (STC) Sun 2
The World of Jacques Demy (STC) Sun 6:30

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre
845 Avison Way

Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas 4D (STC) Fri 11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-11:45-12:15-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15 Mon-Thu 11:15-12:15-1:15-2:15-3:15-4:15

Esplanade 6
200 West Esplanade

American Hustle (14A) , , Fri 6:20-9:30 , , Sat-Mon 12-3:15-6:20-9:30 , , Tue 12-3:15-6:20 , , Wed 3:15-6:20-9:30 , , Thu 12-3:15-6:20-9:30
Frozen (G) , , Fri 9:50 , , Sat-Mon 3:45-9:50 , , Tue-Thu 3:45
Frozen 3D (G) , , Fri 7 , , Sat-Tue 12:45-7 , , Wed 6:45 , , Thu 12:45-6:45
Grudge Match (PG) , , Wed 4:15-7-9:50 , , Thu 1-4:15-7-9:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) , , Fri 7:30 , , Sat-Mon 12:30-4-7:30 , , Tue 12:30-4 , , Wed-Thu 9:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) , , Fri 6:30-8:30 , , Sat-Mon 1-3-4:30-6:30-8:30 , , Tue 1-3-4:30-6:30 , , Wed 4-7:30 , , Thu 12:30-4-7:30
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) , , Wed 4:30-7:15-9:45 , , Thu 1:15-4:30-7:15-9:45
Saving Mr. Banks (G) , , Fri 6:45-9:40 , , Sat-Mon 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:40 , , Tue 12:15-3:30-6:45 , , Wed 3:30-6:30-9:40 , , Thu 12:15-3:30-6:30-9:40

Park & Tilford
333 Brooksbank Ave.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed 4:25-7:15-10:05 Thu 1:35-4:25-7:15-10:05
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 7:30-10:25 Sat-Mon 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 Tue 1:40-4:35-7:30 Wed 4:35-7:30-10:25 Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25
Delivery Man (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat 11:40-2:10-4:50-7:20-10 Sun 2:10-4:50-7:20-10 Mon 2:10-4:40-10 Tue 2:10-4:50-7:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 7-10:10 Sat-Mon 12:30-3:45-7-10:10 Tue 12:30-3:45-7 Wed 3:45-7-10:10 Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:10
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri 7:10-9:55 Sat-Mon 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:55 Tue 1:40-4:20-7:10
Philomena (PG) Fri 6:50-9:40 Sat 11:35-2-4:30-6:50-9:40 Sun-Mon 2-4:30-6:50-9:40 Tue 2-4:30-6:50 Wed-Thu 9:40
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed 5-7:45-10:30 Thu 11:30-2:15-5-7:45-10:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Sat 11:45-2:05 Sun-Tue 2:05 Wed 4:30 Thu 11:45-2:05
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri 6:55-9:15 Sat-Mon 4:30-6:55-9:15 Tue 4:30-6:55 Wed 6:55 Thu 4:30-6:55
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed 4:15-8:15 Thu 12:15-4:15-8:15

SilverCity Riverport
14211 Entertainment Way

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed-Thu 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Tue 1:30-2:10-4:20-5:05-7:10-8-10-10:55 Wed-Thu 11:25-1:15-2:15-4:05-5:05-6:55-7:55-9:50-10:45
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Tue 1:40-7:35
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Tue 9:45
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 4:55-10:35
Dhoom 3 (STC) Fri-Tue 1:55-5:45-9:40 Wed-Thu 11:15-3-6:45-10:25
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 1:35-4:25-7 Sat 11-11:25-1:35-4:25-7 Sun-Tue 1:35-4:25-7 Wed-Thu 11:05-12
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:25-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Tue 12-2:40-5:25-8:05-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:20-8-10:35
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Grudge Match (PG) Wed-Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:35-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Tue 1-4:40-8:20 Wed-Thu 1:45-5:15-8:40
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Mon-Tue 12:30-4-7:30-10:55 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:45-7:20-10:55 Fri-Tue 1:45-5:20-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 Mon-Tue 12-3:30-7-10:30 Wed-Thu 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:15
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:10-6:35-7:30-9:55-10:45 Sun 12:05-3:20-4:10-6:35-7:30-9:55-10:45 Mon 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:10-7:30-9:55-10:45 Tue 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:10-6:35-7:30-9:55-10:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:20-7:40-11
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) Wed-Thu 12:05-2:30-5-7:25-10
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 11:20-2:50-6:30-10
Personal Tailor (G) Fri-Tue 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Wed-Thu 11:20-2:10-5-7:50-10:40
Philomena (PG) Fri 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat 11-11:15-11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) Fri 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed-Thu 11:45-2:30-5:25-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 1:35
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 4:45-7:40-10:40
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri 12:15 Sat 11:15-12:15 Sun-Tue 12:15 Wed-Thu 11-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Sat 11-2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Sun-Tue 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Wed-Thu 3:40-6:05-8:30-10:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed-Thu 12:20-4:20-8:20 Wed-Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:40

Dolphin Cinemas
4555 E. Hastings St.

Frozen (G) Fri 5-7:10-9:25 Sat-Mon 12:30-2:45-5-7:10-9:25 Tue-Thu 12:30-2:45-5-7:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 3:30-6:35-9:40 Sat-Mon 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:40 Tue 12:30-3:30-6:35 Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:35-9:40
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Wed-Thu 9:25 0

SilverCity Metropolis
4700 Kingsway Ave.

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed 11:30-2:15-5-7:50-10:40 Thu 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Sat 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:30 Sun 12:35-3:50-7:05-10:15 Mon-Tue 12:45-4-7:05-10:05 Wed 12:45-4-7:05-10:10 Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 2-4:55-7:50-10:45 Sat 11:10-2-4:55-7:50-10:45 Sun 1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30 Mon-Tue 11:40-1:45-4:40-7:35-10:30 Wed 11:40-1:40-4:35-7:30-10:15 Thu 11:25-2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 11:40 Sat 11:15-11:40 Sun 11:25 Mon-Wed 11:35 Thu 12
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:15-4:50-7:30-10:10 Sun 2-4:35-7:15-9:55 Mon-Tue 2:10-4:45-7:15-9:45 Wed 2:10-4:45-7:15 Thu 2:40-5:20-8
Grudge Match (PG) Wed 11:40-2:20-4:55-7:40-10:20 Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:35-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-5:20-9 Sun 1:30-5:05-8:45 Mon-Wed 2:25-6-9:30 Thu 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Sun 11:45-3:15-6:55-10:35 Mon-Tue 11:55-3:25-6:55-10:25 Wed 12-3:30-7-10:35 Thu 12:15-3:45-7:20-10:55 Fri-Sat 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 Sun 11:15-2:45-6:25-10:05 Mon-Tue 11:30-3-6:30-10:05
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:05-12:45-3:25-4-6:45-7:15-10-10:40 Sat 12:05-1:10-3:25-4:20-6:45-7:30-10-10:40 Sun 11:50-12:30-3:10-3:45-6:30-7-9:45-10:25 Mon-Tue 12-12:40-3:20-3:55-6:30-7-9:35-10:15 Wed 10 Thu 10:35
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:25 Thu 11:45-2:30-5:25-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Sat 1:50 Sun 1:35 Mon-Tue 1:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 4:45-7:45-10:35 Sun 4:30-7:30-10:20 Mon-Tue 4:35-7:30-10:10
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri 12:15 Sat 11:25-12:15 Sun 11:30-12 Mon-Tue 11:30-12:10 Wed 11:25-12:15 Thu 11-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Sun 2:20-4:45-7:10-9:30 Mon-Tue 2:30-4:55-7:10-9:20 Wed 2:40-5:05-7:25-9:40 Thu 3:40-6:05-8:30-10:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed 11:15-3-6:45-10:30 Thu 11:10-3-6:50-10:40

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed 2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35 Thu 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:45-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Sat 11-12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Sun-Tue 12:50-4:05-7:20-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Fri-Tue 12:25-4:20-7:40-11 Wed-Thu 12-3:20-6:40-10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri-Tue 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Wed 2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 Thu 11:25-2:15-5:05-7:55-10:45 Fri-Tue 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Wed-Thu 12:25-3:50-7:10-10:30 Sat 11:15
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Tue 7:05-10:10
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Friend 2: The Legacy (14A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:45 Wed 12-4:10-7:05-10 Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10
Frozen (G) Fri 1:20-4:15 Sat 11-1:20-4:15 Sun-Tue 1:20-4:15 Wed-Thu 11:55-2:35
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 11:55-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:15-8-10:35
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:15
Grudge Match (PG) Wed 2-4:45-7:35-10:25 Thu 11:15-2-4:45-7:35-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Tue 2:10-5:50-9:30 Wed 11:45-3:10-6:40-10:15 Thu 11:35-3:05-6:40-10:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Wed-Thu 12:10-3:45-7:20-10:55 Fri-Tue 12:50-4:30-8:15 Wed-Thu 1:10-5-8:45 Fri-Tue 1:20-2:40-5-6:20-8:45-10:15
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Wed-Thu 12:15-3:30-7-10:20 Fri-Tue 12-3:20-7:15-10:40 Wed-Thu 12:45-4:20-7:40-11
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) Wed-Thu 11:45-2:05-4:40-7:10-9:40
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed-Thu 12-3:15-6:30-9:45
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Tue 2:20-5:20-8:10-11
Philomena (PG) Fri-Tue 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) Fri 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 11-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 1:50-4:45-7:40-10:40 Thu 11-1:50-4:45-7:40-10:40
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed 11:50-2:35-5:20-8:10-11 Thu 11:40-2:30-5:20-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:40 Sat 1:55-4:45-7:45-10:40 Sun 4:45-7:45-10:40 Mon 1:05-4-9:30 Tue 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:40

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri 12:15-2:35 Sat 11:10-12:15-2:35 Sun-Tue 12:15-2:35 Wed 12:20-2:40 Thu 11-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri-Wed 5-7:25-9:50 Thu 3:40-6:05-8:30-10:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed 2:55-6:50-10:45 Thu 11:05-2:55-6:50-10:45 Wed 12:25 Wed-Thu 1:35-5:30-9:30

Clova
5732-176th St., Surrey,

Delivery (STC) Fri-Thu 9:15
Frozen (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
The Polar Express (G) Sat-Sun 4

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Arthur Christmas 3D (G) Sat-Thu 12
Captain Phillips (PG) Fri-Mon 9:10 Wed-Thu 9:10
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Sat-Thu 12:30-2:25
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 3D (G) Fri-Thu 4:30
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Thu 4:50-7
Ender's Game (PG) Sat-Thu 2:30
Free Birds (G) Sat-Thu 12:30
Gravity (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05
Homefront (14A) Fri-Mon 9 Wed-Thu 9
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 4:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Thu 2:30-6:30
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 9 Wed-Thu 9

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed 2:05-4:55-7:40-10:30 Thu 2:05-4:55-7:40-10:35
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Tue 12:50-4-7:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:15
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Sat 11:15-2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Sun-Mon 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Tue 2:10-5:05-8-10:45 Wed 2:10-5-7:45-10:30 Thu 2:10-5-7:45-10:40
Dhoom 3 (STC) Fri-Tue 12:10-1:30-4:30-5:30-8:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 1:30-5:30-9:30
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 12 Sat 11-12 Sun-Thu 12
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Wed-Thu 2:35-5:10-7:40
Grudge Match (PG) Wed 2-4:50-7:35-10:25 Thu 2-4:50-7:35-10:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-5:20-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri 12:05-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:35 Sat-Sun 11:30-12:05-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:35 Mon-Tue 12:05-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:35 Wed-Thu 12:05-3:30-7-10:25
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Tue 12-12:45-3:15-4:10-6:30-7:35-9:45-10:40 Wed-Thu 10:20
Saving Mr. Banks (G) Fri-Tue 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 11:55-4:25-7:30-10:20
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed 12-2:45-5:30-8:15 Thu 12-2:45-5:30-8:15-11
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri-Thu 12:15
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri-Thu 2:30-5-7:25-9:45
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed-Thu 12:35-2:40-6:30-10:20

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

47 Ronin (PG) , Wed-Thu 4:20
47 Ronin 3D (PG) , Wed 7:20-10:10 , Thu 1:20-7:20-10:10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) , Fri 4-7-10 , Sat-Mon 1-4-7-10 , Tue 1-4-7 , Wed 4-7-10 , Thu 1-4-7-10
Dhoom 3 (STC) , Fri 3:30-4:10-7:20-8 , Sat-Mon 12:30-3:30-4:10-7:20-8 , Tue 12:30-3:30-4:10-7:20 , Wed 4:10-8 , Thu 12:30-4:10-8
Frozen (G) , Fri-Tue 3:40-9:30 , Wed-Thu 3:40
Frozen 3D (G) , Fri 6:50 , Sat-Tue 12:40-6:50 , Wed 6:50 , Thu 12:20-6:50
Grudge Match (PG) , Wed 4:15-7:10-10:05 , Thu 1:30-4:15-7:10-10:05
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) , Fri 5-6:30-9:40 , Sat-Mon 1:15-1:45-5-6:30-9:40 , Tue 1:15-1:45-5-6:30 , Wed 4:30-9 , Thu 12:45-4:30-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) , Fri 3:50-4:30-7:30-9 , Sat-Mon 12:15-12:45-3:50-4:30-7:30-9 , Tue 12:15-12:45-3:50-4:30-7:30 , Wed 3:50-7:30 , Thu 12:15-3:50-7:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) , Fri 3:45-6:45-9:40 , Sat-Mon 12:50-3:45-6:45-9:40 , Tue 12:50-3:45-6:45 , Wed-Thu 9:25
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) , Wed 4:35-7:15-9:50 , Thu 1:05-4:35-7:15-9:50
Saving Mr. Banks (G) , Fri 3:45-7:10-10:10 , Sat-Mon 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:10 , Tue 12:45-3:45-7:10 , Wed 3:35-6:30-9:30 , Thu 12:35-3:35-6:30-9:30
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) , Wed 3:45-6:40-9:40 , Thu 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:40
Thor: The Dark World (PG) , Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 , Sat-Mon 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 , Tue 1:05-4:05-7:05
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) , Fri-Tue 4:20 , Wed-Thu 4:25
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) , Fri 6:40-9:15 , Sat-Mon 1:30-6:40-9:15 , Tue 1:30-6:40 , Wed 6:45-9:10 , Thu 1:10-6:45-9:10
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) , Wed 3:30-7:45 , Thu 12:40-3:30-7:45

Rialto
1732-152nd Street, White Rock

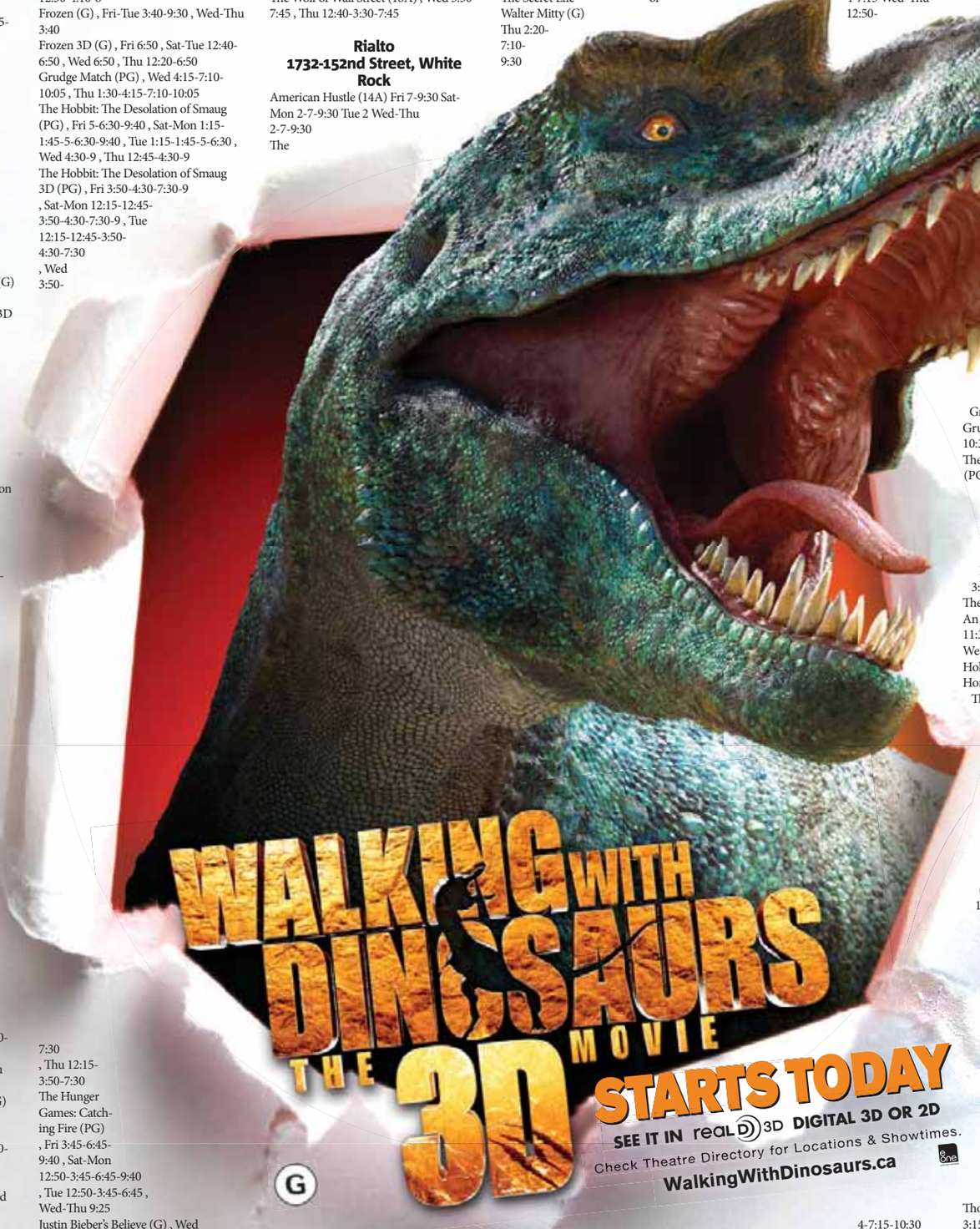
American Hustle (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Mon 2-7-9:30 Tue 2 Wed-Thu 2-7-9:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 7:10 Wed 7:10
Grudge Match (PG) Thu 2:10-7:10-9:20
Philomena (PG) Fri 9:25 Sat-Mon 2:10-9:25 Tue 2:10 Wed 9:25

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Tue 2:10-7-9:20 Thu 2:10-7-9:20
Frozen (G) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Tue 2:20-7:10-9:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat-Tue 2-7:30 Thu 2-7:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Thu 2:20-7:10-9:30
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri 7:20-9:25 Sat-Tue 2:30-7:20-9:25 Thu 2:30-7:20-9:25

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Mon 3:45-10:10 Tue 3:45
47 Ronin 3D (PG) Wed 1:55-4:55-7:50-10:40 Thu 11:15-2:05-4:55-7:55-10:45
American Hustle (14A) Fri-Mon 12:20-3:40-6:45-10 Tue 12:20-3:40-6:45 Wed 12:20-3:40-6:45-10 Thu 12:20-3:35-6:45-10 Fri-Mon 12:50-4-7:15-10:30 Tue 12:50-4-7:15 Wed-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:30
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Fri 1:40-2:10-4:35-5:05-7:30-8-10:25-10:55 Sat 11:15-1:40-2:10-4:35-5:05-7:30-8-10:25-10:55 Sun 1:40-2:10-4:35-5:05-7:30-8-10:25-10:55 Mon 2:10-5:05-8-10:55 Tue 2:10-5:05-8 Wed 1:40-2:10-4:35-5:05-7:25-8-10:25-10:55 Thu 11:25-1:05-2:15-4:05-5:05-6:55-8-9:50-10:55 Mon 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 Tue 1:40-4:35-7:30
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Tue 12:35-7:15
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Mon 12:10-2:45-5:20-8:05-10:35 Tue 12:10-2:45-5:20-8
Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Fri 12:30-3:25-6:20 Sat 11:05-12:30-3:25-6:20 Sun-Tue 12:30-3:25-6:20 Wed 11:40 Thu 11:10-11:40
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 Sat 11:25-11:40-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 Sun-Mon 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25 Tue 11:40-2:25-5:05-7:45 Wed-Thu 2:25-5:05-7:45-10:25
Gravity 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 9:35
Grudge Match (PG) Wed 2-4:50-7:35-10:35 Thu 11:15-2-4:50-7:35-10:35
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Fri-Mon 1-4:30-8:15 Tue 12:30-4-7:45 Wed-Thu 1-4:30-8:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 2:15-5:50-9:30 Tue 2:15-5:50 Wed 2:15-5:50-9:30 Thu 2:10-5:50-9:30 Fri-Mon 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 Tue 12-3:30-7:10 Wed-Thu 12-3:30-7:10-10:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Fri-Mon 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 Tue 11:30-3-6:40 Wed-Thu 11:30-3-6:40-10:20
Holiday Inn (STC) Mon 7
Homefront (14A) Fri-Tue 2-7:55
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:05-6:50-7:40-10:15-11 Sun 12:05-3:20-4:05-6:50-7:40-10:15-11 Mon 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:05-7:40-10:15-11 Tue 12:05-12:45-3:20-4:05-6:50-7:40 Wed 12:05-3:20-6:50-10:15 Thu 12:45-4:10-7:40-11
Justin Bieber's Believe (G) Wed 11:55-2:30-5-7:30-10:05 Thu 11:55-2:35-5-7:30-10:05
Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (14A) Wed 12:10-3:35-7:20-10:45 Thu 11:20-2:50-6:30-10
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Mon 4:50-10:45 Tue 4:50
Philomena (PG) Fri-Mon 11:35-2:05-4:55-7:35-10:05 Tue 11:35-2:05-4:55-7:35
Royal Opera: The Nutcracker - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:40-7:35-10:40 Tue 1:50-4:40-7:35 Wed 1:50-4:40-7:40-10:40 Thu 11-1:50-4:40-7:40-10:40
The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (G) Wed 12-2:45-5:30-8:10-11 Thu 11:45-2:30-5:25-8:10-11
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri-Tue 12:25
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 3:15-6:15-9:15 Tue 3:15-6:15
Walking With Dinosaurs (G) Fri 12:15 Sat 11:10-12:15 Sun-Wed 12:15 Thu 11-1:20
Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (G) Fri-Mon 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Tue 2:35-5-7:25 Wed 2:35-5-7:25-9:45 Thu 3:40-6:05-8:30-10:50
The Wolf of Wall Street (18A) Wed 12:15-12:45-4:15-4:45-8:20-8:50 Thu 11:05-12:15-2:55-4:15-6:50-8:20-10:40



VANCOUVER THEATRESPORTS LEAGUE
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Improv comedy on this year's headlines
DECEMBER 27 - 31, 2013
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Christmas Eve Dec. 24: candlelight service at 7:30pm
Christmas Day Dec. 25: festive worship at 10:30am

Both family-friendly services include
Holy Eucharist and carol singing.

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2 blocks west of the Canada Line
Skytrain, Langara-49th Ave. station

604.321.7101
Email: **info@stmstl.org**
Facebook: **StMatthiasStLukeAnglicanChurch**
www.stmstl.org

App review

Need proof of Santa?

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
scene@metronews.ca

Kringl
iPhone/Android
Free

Santa won't come unless kids are asleep, but you can record video proof for them using this Make-A-Wish Canada app that captures the jolly man making preparations within your home.

Video game review

Name. The Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds

For. Nintendo 3DS

Rated. Everyone

The glasses-free 3D in this latest Zelda adventure is so incredibly convincing, it's as if there is no screen at all and you're playing a game inside a box, where the pieces can fall deeper inside or fly out past the lid to swipe at your nose. Even the sound seems to carry over a distance. Add to that an effect where Link can turn into a painting and travel along the walls and you have a masterful retelling of a story you'd expect, after 16 sequels, to be all too familiar. KRIS ABEL

The other key games this holiday

Mobile and more.
What's available beyond the big platforms? Racing avians, digital dice and a land made out of paper

SAM CASTONE
Metro World News

Angry Birds Go!

Angry Birds creator Rovio takes a page from the Mario Kart playbook, porting Red, Chuck, Bomb and Bubbles (and their pig nemeses) into a racing game, where you can blast one another using special power-ups. Kids who buy Telepods — physical playsets, found in toy stores — can import their characters as well. It's available for download and it's free, though you can pay to pimp your ride.

The Elder Scrolls Anthology

Dan Harmon, creator of Community, is a fan. The latest edition sold 20 million copies. And one player named her child Dovahkiin as part of a contest. The role-playing Elder Scrolls series has a devoted following, and if you know a fellow Stormcloak, they'd appreciate this. It's a gorgeously-produced box set with all five games, official add-ons and five physical maps detailing the worlds of Morrowind, Tamriel and Skyrim. PC, $79.99

Tearaway

Set in a land made of paper people, paper trees and paper tigers, this adventure, for the handheld PlayStation Vita, channels that classic Daffy Duck cartoon where the artist erases him. You tap the back of the device and your finger appears to burst through the action — or swipe the screen and unfurl a bridge. It's from the creators of Little Big Planet and has that game's all-ages whimsy. $39.99 US

iPad Arcade Stand

It's the dream of every Silver Spoons fan: Arcade games right in your home. Now it's a reality, if you own an iPad. Plug it into the iCade and the joystick works, via Bluetooth, with classic games like Pac-Man, Centipede, Asteroids and 500 more. And even though it looks small, the controls are full-sized. Quarters and roller rink not included. $100 US, ionaudio.com.

Dice +

Trying to bring the board game back, Dice+ does so digitally. The small cube looks like a die but with illuminated numbers instead of dots. Roll it, and it lights up and sends messages — via Bluetooth — to a game on your iPad. So-called powered board games include backgammon, a pirate adventure and the Twister-with-fingers Rumble Stumble. $39.99 US, Dicepl.us

Turning Negativity into musical positivity

Deer Tick's new album. Front man channeled the frustration of his drug habit and the built-up anger over his father's jail sentence into something good

John McCauley performing with his band, Deer Tick, at the Newport Folk Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singer John McCauley of the rock band Deer Tick figured out how to turn his pain into something positive.

McCauley used the Rhode Island-based band's latest album, Negativity, to unleash some of the frustrations and struggles he has had over the past couple of years into a polished and refined sound that mixes country, folk and rock.

His father was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to federal charges of conspiracy and tax fraud and McCauley was struggling with substance abuse. The album includes several references to McCauley's experiences, as painful as they were. "People take comfort in knowing either A, somebody is going through something similar to what they went through or B, somebody's got it worse off than they do," McCauley said during a recent interview. "I am guilty of both of those things when I listen to music."

Now he says he's cleaned up and feeling excited about the future. McCauley and singer Vanessa Carlton are planning a wedding at the end of December, just before the band is scheduled to start a European tour.

The couple recorded a duet on the album, called In Our Time, which McCauley wrote about his own parents.

"We met through Patrick Hallahan, from My Morning Jacket. He introduced us after I went on Vanessa's Twitter and said, 'Hey, VC let's get a beer,"' McCauley said. "I had just figured out how to use Twitter so I was really proud of myself."

The band recorded the album with producer Steve Berlin, from Los Lobos, who pushed the band to focus on instrumentation and added new layers to their songs without losing the rawness that the group is known for, McCauley said.

"This is the first record that we've put out where we actually rehearsed every single song on the record, so we're actually kind of proud of this one," McCauley said. "We go out on stage every night, just a little bit more aware of our surroundings and what our equipment does than we have in the past."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shoot those carolers

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Tired of all the usual Christmas tunage? Let me offer you some alternatives.

Rob Ford Got Run Over by a Reindeer/ Eh440

Not only does this song offer a new twist on the Elmo & Patsy classic, but it also manages to work in a rhyme using "Councilor Denzil Minnan-Wong."

Why Didn't You Put Up the Xmas Tree?/ CCF Devastators

A Ramones-like decorating complaint from this Calgary group who claim that the video was directed by Tommy Douglas.

Let It Snow!/ Captain Picard

What if you had the time to go through all the Star Trek: TNG episodes and piece together Jean-Luc in such a way that he appears to recite a Christmas song? Make it so.

Music

Beyoncé producer knew of release only minutes before

Beyoncé's new album was so secret, one of its producers only knew of its release 90 minutes before it dropped.

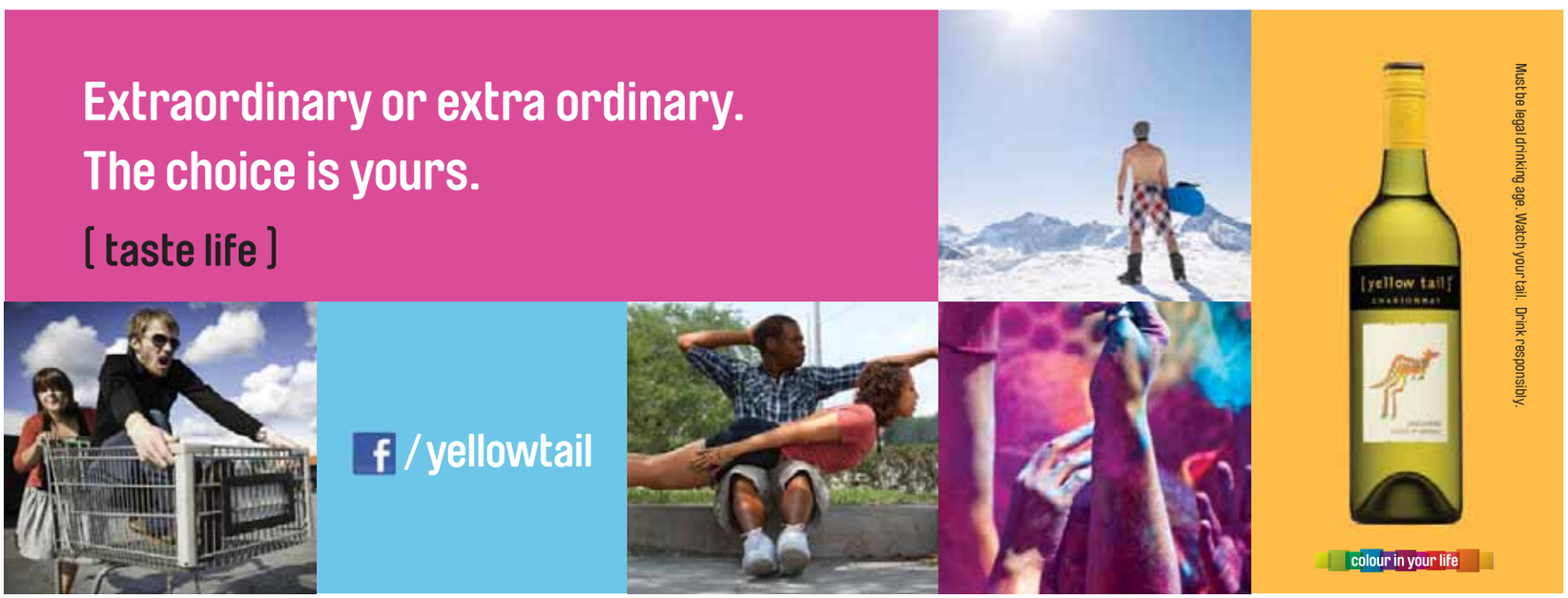
Beyoncé released her self-titled album in surprise form last week. Ryan Tedder produced the single XO, and he learned about the release not long before it went public.

"I knew 90 minutes before it dropped. Ninety minutes. And I said nothing because I love Beyoncé and I don't want her to hate me," Tedder said in an interview Tuesday.

"I heard a rumour and then I didn't say anything," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Producer Ryan Tedder. GETTY IMAGES


Extraordinary or extra ordinary.
The choice is yours.
[taste life]
/yellowtail
[yellow tail]
Must be legal drinking age. Watch your tail. Drink responsibly.
colour in your life

Miley Cyrus' tongue a nervous tick

The truth behind Miley Cyrus' penchant for sticking out her tongue in photos is that she's actually just really nervous, she insists in an interview with Barbara Walters.

"I get embarrassed to take pictures. That's actually the truth," she says.

"I'm so embarrassed, because people are taking pictures of me, and I just don't know how to — I don't know how to smile, and just be awkward, so I stick my tongue out, because I don't know what else to do."

Cyrus first made her trademark tongue pose as part of her Blurred Lines song with Robin Thicke.

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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DEBRA DIGIOVANNI
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A three-night getaway for two to Toronto, Ontario, including return first-class tickets to Toronto on VIA Rail Canada, a three-night stay at the Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre and a spa day at Pantages Shizen Spa!
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Vogue Theatre
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Just for laughs Live
Contest closes December 23, 2013 at noon. Open to Canadian residents, excluding Quebec, 18 years or older. No purchase necessary. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries. Go to www.clubmetro.com to enter and fi ll out entry form, including skill-testing question. There is one (1) Grand Prize of a trip for two to Toronto, which includes return first-class tickets to Toronto (Business class in the Québec City-Windsor Corridor, or Sleeper or Sleeper Plus class on long-haul trains) for two (2) people, on VIA Rail Canada, three nights of hotel accommodation at the Pantages Hotel Toronto Centre and a spa day at Pantages Shizen Spa, valued at approximately $3,000 CAD (based upon departure from Halifax, actual value may vary depending upon time and year of departure).
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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Brad Pitt playing down his milestone birthday

While Brad Pitt has previously seemed at peace with turning 50 this week, his birthday plans — or lack thereof — suggest something else.

"He's not doing anything for it and he said he doesn't want any surprises," a source tells Us Weekly.

"He really doesn't want to talk about his birthday much."

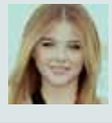
Of course, work is keeping him pretty busy, as Pitt is currently filming his Second World War drama, Fury, in London while Angelina Jolie is in Australia working on Unbroken.

Pitt will reportedly join her there this weekend, though, so there will be some sort of celebration of his milestone birthday.

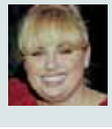
"Brad said he's going to celebrate his birthday this weekend in Australia," the source says. "That's going to be the only thing he does."

Twitter

@SteveMartinToGo
My War on Christmas not going so well this year. Bought a carload of presents and now I'm drunk on eggnog.



@ChloeGMoretz
Some girls need to just grow up, stop being immature and act like an adult.



@RebelWilson
When my ugg boots take more than 2 seconds to put on I'm like ugh! Too much effort

ELITE 3

Liquid Assets

Christmas cheer sipper

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

Last week was all about white wines for your holiday meal, so it's only right I suggest the right reds.

If you're convinced that only whites go with white meats, get over yourself. Reds can be an excellent match with poultry, especially when it's served old-school with plenty of savoury fixings and vegetal accompaniment.

He may not look it, but Tom turkey doesn't carry a lot of fat, which means you're going to want to avoid any red that is tannin heavy. Tannins love fat, so your bird will get lambasted if it meets a big-boned red like a New World Cabernet Sauvignon or a hip, Italian Aglianico (choose them if you're doing roast beef).

Take the bright and fruity path. Think California Zinfandel, New Zealand Pinot Noir, a French Beaujolais Cru or, my favourite, an Italian made with the Barbera grape.

From Piemonte, Bersano's 2011 Costalunga Barbera d'Asti ($11.95 - $14.99) is a glass full of strawberry, cherry, light earth and subtle spice that makes merry with turkey and all its eclectic Christmas plate mates.

Happy holidays! **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

A dash of sweet steals the Christmas spotlight

Roasted Chicken With Asian Glaze and Fruit Sauce. Tired of the same old turkey year after year? Be brave and try something new

ROSE REISMAN
For more, visit rosereisman.com or follow her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a holiday entrée with a delicious fruit sauce instead of traditional gravy. You can use this over any poultry such as Cornish hen or even turkey. If you're using turkey, multiply the glaze and sauce by three.

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Place chicken in roasting pan.

Ingredients

- 1 whole chicken

Glaze

- 1 tsp crushed garlic
- 1 tsp minced ginger root (or 1/4 tsp ground ginger)
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup sweet dessert wine (plum wine, Mirin or sweet Sake)
- Pinch chili flakes
- 1 tbsp margarine, melted
- Pinch dried coriander and/or cumin
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup chicken stock

Sauce

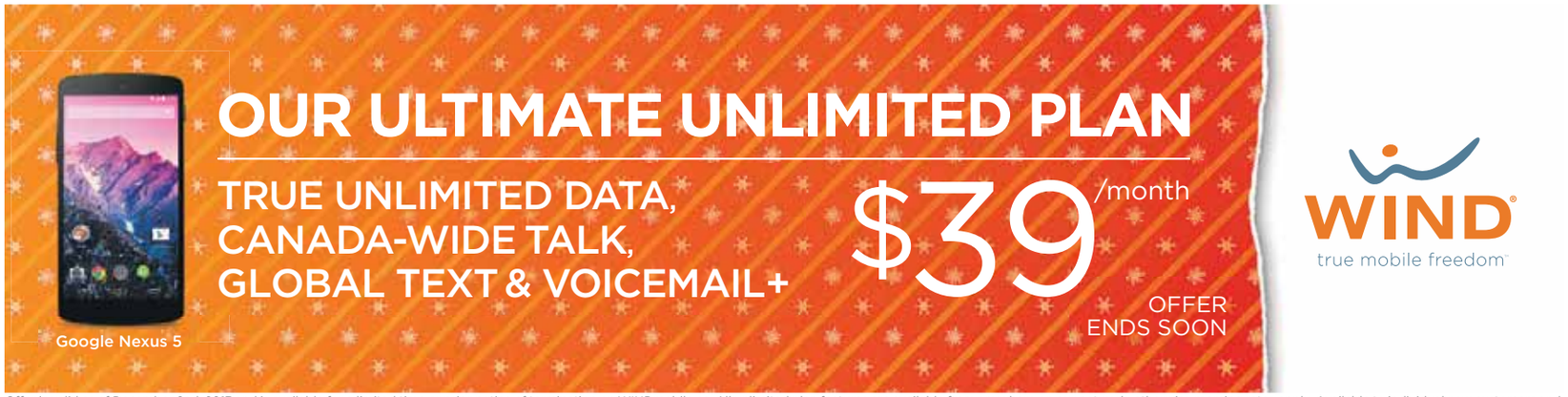
- 1 tbsp cornstarch
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/4 cup chopped dates
- 1/4 cup chopped dried apricots

This recipe serves four. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS)

2. Glaze: In bowl, mix garlic, ginger, honey, wine, chili flakes, margarine, coriander, salt and pepper to taste and stock; set half aside for sauce. Brush some of the remaining mixture over chicken. Bake for 60 minutes or until meat thermometer registers 160 F, basting with more honey mixture every 15 minutes.

3. Cut chicken into 4 quarters; place on serving dish and keep warm.

4. Sauce: Pour reserved honey mixture into small saucepan; stir in cornstarch, mixing well. Add chicken stock along with dates and apricots; cook over medium heat, stirring, for 2 minutes or until thickened. Pour over chicken. Remove skin before eating. **ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT COOKING (MCM BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**



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Goh Ballet's The Nutcracker

It's almost your last chance to catch The Nutcracker, a holiday classic that consistently wows the crowd in Vancouver. Experience the Land of Snow, Kingdom of Sweets and witness Clara's dream come to life as she embarks on a magical journey greeted by a Sugar Plum Fairy. It's an unforgettable adventure guaranteed to get you in the festive mood. For more information and to purchase tickets visit: gohnutcracker.com. The Centre, until Dec. 22.

The Original Ugly Sweater Party

The 12th Annual Original Ugly Sweater Party is the holiday season's biggest party and not to be missed. Challenge friends, family and colleagues to don their tackiest Christmas garb possible for a night of eggnog-fuelled fun (and fundraising for a cause). Live music, DJs, caroling and more await. Bring a pair of gently used shoes and support Ruben's Shoes while you're at it. For more info visit: christmassweaterparty.com. Party starts at 8 p.m. December 20th, Commodore Ballroom.

Winter Solstice Lantern Festival

Light up a lantern and participate in this community driven festival that sets the sky alight with hundreds of handmade glowing lanterns. In celebration of the sun and 20th anniversary of the Winter Solstice Lantern Festival, there will be plenty of activities to spice up the night. Drumming, singing, music, fire and plenty of dancing will keep you warm. For more info on the festival and activities taking place around Vancouver, visit: secretlantern.org. Dec. 2.

The Eastside Flea December Holiday Market

This Saturday, check out one of the season's coolest markets this weekend featuring around 40 local vendors selling vintage clothing, handmade craft items, collectibles, artwork, records and other rarities. It's the perfect spot to stop by if you're still searching for that hard-to-buy-for person on your gift list. For more information, visit eastsideflea.com. Shopping starts at 10 a.m., admission is by donation. 1882 Adanac Street.

Happy Non-Denominational Holiday Spectacular

This Friday, buck the shopping trend and head over to 1882 Adanac Street for a night of festive fun. Hosted by Our Vancouver, it'll be a night wrought with fun, live music by DJs Shake and Blake, a Hipster Santa, No-Overtime Elves and stand up comics guaranteed to either make you grown or be entertained. Tickets are $12 and available at the door or online through eventbrite.ca. Dec. 20, The Wise Hall.

Coming up: Contact Winter Music Festival

Dance off all that extra turkey next week at Contact, a massive two-day winter music festival taking over BC Place Stadium. Featuring headliner DJ acts such as Kaskade, Skrillex, Dirty South, Diplo and more, you'll keep your feet more than busy. As Western Canada's largest electronic indoor music festival, this event is one not to miss. For tickets and more details visit contact-festival.com.

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These gifts combine a little fun with learning — PAGE 51

Develop a knack for photography with these cameras — PAGE 54

Will you say 'Yes' to a romantic time of year? — PAGE 56

5 shopping days left

SUNNY STUDIO-IGOR YARUTA/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOLIDAY 2013 metro gift guide

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Holiday Inn

Winning choices

Oakley Airwave 1.5 — $649

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Surprise the athlete in your life with some high-tech gadgets this holiday. Whether they are training, or they simply like to get out and be active, these devices are sure to win them over.

JayBird BlueBuds X — $169.95

These sweat-proof Bluetooth headphones are ideal for athletes. Among the smallest Bluetooth buds available, these beauties hug your ears to ensure they don't fall out during physical activity. Not only do they sound good, they will also last eight hours on a single charge.

ZBoard — $649 and up

Turn some heads on your next morning commute. The ZBoard electronic skateboard can travel at speeds of up to 24 kilometres per hour. Navigation is easy. Simply lean forward to accelerate or backwards to brake. A single charge will take you eight kilometres. Helmet required.

Withings Smart Body Scale — $149.95

Track your fitness goals with this wireless scale. Withings Smart Body Scale tracks your body weight, fat composition, heart rate and the air quality in your home, then beams the results directly to your smartphone. Results can be tracked for up to eight users. It may come in handy after all those holiday dinners.

GoPro Hero3+ — $399

The smallest, lightest GoPro yet. This rugged device can withstand extreme conditions while recording high-definition and 4K video. The latest model boasts a number of new features including a better battery, improved audio and low-light mode. Additional accessories let you connect this camera to surfboards, mountain bikes, helmets and more. The perfect gift for adrenaline junkies.

Smart ebike — $3,240 and up

From the makers of the Smart Car, this premium electric bike has a motor that assists with pedalling, helping you take on headwinds and steep hills. A digital display on the handlebars lets you monitor everything from battery life to average speed. The lithium-ion battery recharges as you pedal, or you can plug it into a normal wall socket. Only consider buying this if you have deep pockets!

Oakley Airwave 1.5 — $649

Snow goggles with some serious tech. The Oakley Airwave 1.5 has a small heads-up display within your field of vision to show your speed, altitude, even your jump analytics. There is also navigation, buddy tracking, music and the ability to view texts from your smartphone. Pricey, but the ultimate gift for that avid skier in your life.

TomTom Multi-Sport GPS Watch — $199 and up

So much more than just a watch. These nifty devices track time, distance, and pace for indoor and outdoor runners. Cyclists can glance at stats and swimmers can track their metrics in the pool. Shell out an additional $50 and you can get a Bluetooth heart monitor that tracks the intensity of your workout.

Smart ebike — $3,240 and up

Spot Global Phone — $499

Make calls from virtually anywhere in the world. Wether you are up in the mountains or out on the water, this satellite phone has you covered. Keep in touch with family and friends on adventures or get in touch with first responders in an emergency. An optional data kit can be used to connect this phone to a computer so you can check your email.

Bushnell Tour V3 Laser Rangefinder — $369.99

Always know the right distance to the pin on the golf course. This rangefinder can lock onto the flag from 900 metres away with accuracy of one metre, helping golfers determine which club should be used and how much power they need to put behind the shot. Five-time magnification gives golfers a closer look at the green. Legal for tournament play.

Polar Loop — $109.95

This lightweight, waterproof bracelet tracks your daily activities, monitors exercise levels, gives motivational feedback and even tracks your sleep patterns. If you want even more detailed data, purchase the optional heart rate monitor. Works with iOS devices and coming soon to Android.

ZBoard — $649 and up, clockwise, from above, Polar Loop — $109.95, GoPro Hero3+ — $399, JayBird BlueBuds X — $169.95, Bushnell Tour V3 Laser Rangefinder — $369.99, Spot Global Phone — $499, and TomTom Multi-Sport GPS Watch — $199 and up.

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Spice up the season with these scents for him

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Fresh, spicy and sexy scents for the men in your life.

Banana Republic Wildblue Noir is an after 5 p.m. aromatic woody scent of aquatic, spicy, musk, leather and dark chocolate notes. $60 at Banana Republic.

Bottega Veneta Pour Homme features a fresh, spicy fragrance that blends bergamot, pimento, balsam and patchouli. $80 at Holt Renfrew.

Boucheron pour Homme offers a crisp, citrus and wood scent of green basil, ylang-ylang, vetiver and sandalwood. $125 at Hudson's Bay.

Clean White Woods has a modern, clean, soapy, yet warm, woody fragrance she can wear, too. From $39 at Sephora.

Givenchy Gentlemen Only features an elegant, fresh, yet sensual blend of citrus, spice, woods and incense. From $67 at Hudson's Bay and Sephora.

Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme is a luxurious oriental spicy fragrance of floral, fruity, spicy, and warm leather and amber notes. From $80 at Sephora.

L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger offers a cool, zesty scent of citrus, cedar, musk and cedarwood. $75 at L'Occitane boutiques and loccitane.ca

Le Labo Vetiver 46 is an outdoorsy fresh scent of crisp vetiver with smoky, spicy undertones. From $170. See lelabofragrances.com for retailers.

Ralph Lauren Polo Red is a revved-up composition of zingy citrus, spice, amber and woods. From $75 at department stores and pharmacies.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition offers an intensely fresh aromatic scent with spicy, amber and lavender notes. $88 at Holt Renfrew.

Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition is an opulent, seductive scent of citrus, warm spice and woods in a matte black flacon. $96 at Hudson's Bay.

Prada Luna Rossa Limited Edition, clockwise, from bottom, Ralph Lauren Polo Red, Bottega Veneta Pour Homme, Givenchy Gentlemen Only, Gucci Made to Measure Pour Homme, L'Occitane En Provence Cèdre & Oranger, Banana Republic Wildblue Noir, Le Labo Vetiver 46, Clean White Woods, and Yves Saint Laurent Nuit de L'Homme Collector Edition.

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Your little angels

Purple Blouse With Hearts, $12.99, available at Marshalls stores, marshallscanada.ca.

Heart Sweater, $24 available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Toddler Girls Earmuffs, $16.95, available at the Gap and babyGap stores, gapcanada.ca.

Genuine Kids From OshKosh Tutu Skirt In Pink, $22, available at Target stores, target.ca.

Girls Texting Gloves, $14.94, available at Old Navy stores, oldnavy.ca.

Socks, $9.95, available at La Vie en Rose stores, lavieenrose.com.

Navy dress, $19, available at Joe Fresh stores, joefresh.com.

Newberry Mesh Skirt, $19.99, available at Sears, sears.ca.

Canada Goose Grizzly Snowsuit, $495, available at Sporting Life, Holt Renfrew, Harry Rosen, canadagoose.com.

On the road

Making commuting much more comfortable

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

It's estimated we spend nearly a month each year in our cars, SUVs and trucks, driving to work, running errands or driving the kids to and from events. Why not make someone's commute a little more comfortable this year with a gadget for the vehicle.

Garmin Head-up Display — $149.99
This unique GPS system takes navigation information from your smartphone and beams it onto the windshield. Get turn-by-turn directions, current speed, and estimated time of arrival without looking away from the road. The heads-up display automatically adjusts to ambient light so you can always see the information whether it's bright and sunny or dark.

Swift Hitch — $219
A camera backup system designed to help hitch a trailer or camper without the need of a second person. The magnetic mounted camera wirelessly sends video to a handheld monitor guiding you into the proper position. Dark outside? No problem. Swift Hitch has a night vision mode.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99
The ultimate in-car entertainment system. Stream music from your phone, watch DVDs, or take advantage of dozens of popular apps on this beautiful seven-inch capacitive multi-touch screen. If you get lost you can always open one of six navigation apps to help you find your way. Knock $100 off the price tag if you can live without the DVD option.

Jabra Motion — $129.95
The safe way to take phone calls behind the wheel. This high-end Bluetooth headset adapts to the environment you are in, ensuring crystal-clear audio. The Jabra motion fits any ear, is easy to set up, and lets you take control to make calls using voice commands. It's also smart enough to go to sleep when not in use so the battery doesn't continually drain.

SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99
The perfect gift to ensure your loved ones are safe on the road. This one-of-a-kind cellphone is powered by a single AA battery, which provides up to 10 hours of talk time. The phone comes in a waterproof bag (which you can talk through), has a panic siren and a built-in LED Torchlight that can signal for help if you become stranded on the road. This phone can keep its charge for up to 15 years if unused, even in extreme temperatures.

Secure Remote Bluetooth Remote Garage Door Opener — $149
No more copying keys, memorizing codes or fiddling with traditional garage door openers. With this device you can open your garage door using your smartphone. Works with iOS, Android and BlackBerry devices.

SiriusXM Lynx — $299
If you have never had satellite radio you have no idea what you are missing. It's like having hundreds of mixed tapes at your disposable. The Lynx lets you pause, rewind and replay live radio, and will alert you when your favourite radio shows are playing. This receiver can be used in the car or at home with optional docking accessories.

Hipkey — $89.95
Never lose your car keys again. Attach this device to your key chain to allow tracking directly from your smartphone. You can also set an alarm to alert you if you forget your keys or if someone tries to take them. This device can be attached to electronics such as tablets, smartphones or even children.

Pioneer AppRadio 3 — $499.99, clockwise, from left, Swift Hitch — $219, Speecup — $129.95, Hipkey — $89.95, Jabra Motion — $129.95, SpareOne Plus Emergency Phone — $79.99, and SiriusXM Lynx — $299.

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Favourite Pecan Pie. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Favourite Pecan Pie

Stay on track this season by serving delicious, calorie-reduced versions of traditional festive desserts. Lightly sweetened with naturally-sourced stevia, this pecan pie will make a tempting addition to any holiday table and appease guests young and old.

Ingredients:
- 1 refrigerated pie crust from a 15-ounce (425-gram) package
- 2 large eggs
- 2 large egg whites
- 1 cup (250 ml) sugar-free maple syrup
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) Pure Via granulated
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) molasses
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp (5 ml) vanilla
- ¼ tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 cup (250 ml) pecan halves
- Sugar-free whipped topping (optional)

Instructions:

1 Preheat oven to 350 F. Roll pie crust to an 11-inch (28-centimetre) circle. Fit into a nine-inch (23-centimetre) pie plate. Flute edges; set aside.

2 Whisk eggs and egg whites until blended. Whisk in sugar-free syrup, Pure Via sweetener, molasses, flour, vanilla and salt until combined. Stir in pecans. Pour into pie crust.

3 Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack before serving. Top each piece with sugar-free whipped topping, if desired. Makes eight servings.

NEWS CANADA

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Spiced Mexican Coffee. NEWS CANADA

Recipe. Spiced Mexican Coffee

There is nothing quite like the comforting feeling that a warm drink provides on a cold, winter night. Whether you are relaxing at home with family or socializing with friends, this Spiced Mexican Coffee recipe is just the thing to bring everyone together. Lightly sweetened with naturally-sourced stevia, this holiday treat has only 26 calories per serving, which means you don't have to feel guilty about having another cup.

Ingredients:
- 4 cups (1 litre) water
- 6 cinnamon sticks
- 2 vanilla beans split
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- ⅓ cup (75 ml) finely ground Viennese or Italian roast coffee
- 6 packets Pure Via sweetener
- ¾ cup (175 ml) 1% low fat milk, steamed

Instructions:

1 Combine water, cinnamon sticks, vanilla beans and honey in three-quart (three-litre) saucepan. Heat on medium heat to boiling, stirring frequently.

2 Stir in coffee and Pure Via sweetener. Remove from heat. Let steep five minutes.

3 Strain coffee into six small mugs. Discard cinnamon and vanilla. Top evenly with steamed milk and serve. Makes six servings.

Tips: Vanilla beans can be split open lengthwise with a small knife, adding more flavour to the coffee. The tiny vanilla seeds can be used on top of the steamed milk. If vanilla beans are not available, use vanilla extract to taste.

NEWS CANADA

A fun way to learn

LeapFrog Read with Me Scout and Violet, $39.99, available in green and purple at most major retailers.

Sparkup The Magical Book eReader, $49.95, available at Chapters/Indigo, indigo.ca.

V-Tech Stencil and Learn Studio, $29.95, available at Target, target.ca.

Fisher Price I-Jig Interactive Jigsaw Puzzle, $29.99, available at Target, target.ca.

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FedEx Office

Craft a personal touch with gifts

HEATHER BEAUMONT
For Metro

There are many fun, new craft ideas to both give and enjoy this holiday season. OLIVEROMG/SHUTTERSTOCK

Stamped on Heather Baillie-Brown's heart is the desire to help others.

The Barrie, Ont., writer, photographer and filmmaker crafts holiday gifts for strangers along with the presents she makes for her loved ones. Over the years, she has donated homemade scarves, hats and knitted afghans to charities.

"If people want to be crafty and they don't have anyone to knit for, they can knit 'Boomer' caps for babies in Afghanistan through the Boomer's Legacy program," Baillie-Brown said. "I've done that. You can donate crafts to local Christmas charities to be distributed as gifts or sold to raise money for worthy causes."

The Boomer's Legacy Foundation (boomerslegacy.ca) is a Canadian charity that was initiated after the death of Cpl. Andrew (Boomer) Eykelenboom, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in August 2006.

This year, as with every holiday season, there are loads of fun, new craft ideas to both give and enjoy. Some knitting and crocheting projects can be time intensive. Check specialty arts and crafts' retailer Michaels' online decor guide for ideas categorized according to level of difficulty.

For simple ideas, consider personalized jewelry.

"String bungee cord with a charm or a single initial for a personal bracelet or necklace," said Jo Pearson, Michaels' creative expert. "Commemorate special events and people with scrapbook gifts or a single-framed page."

Fit scrapbooking paper to plain cork coasters, then add a coat of Mod Podge glue sealant to the finish for decorative coaster gifts for colleagues.

"Holiday wreaths make great gifts," Pearson said. "Use ribbon to match your recipients' holiday decor and add wooden initial letters for an easy and personalized gift."

Create gift tags from favourite photos of you and your recipient. Cut the photo into a circle, string ribbon through a hole-punch and tie it to the package.

Baking containers with holiday motifs are another way to make homemade treats more festive. Michaels and Williams-Sonoma, specialty retailer of home products, both stock holiday containers. Williams-Sonoma's Nordic Ware Star of David Bundt® cake pans will deliver a spectacular, six-point starred cake for family gatherings.

For Christmas celebrations, consider Williams-Sonoma's eight mini-cake loaf pan with classic seasonal decorations, a holiday cupcake stencil set, holiday cookie stamps, or pancake models.

"My 19-year-old son usually has his chums over during the holidays," Baillie-Brown said. "It's nice to have baking on hand because it really isn't Christmas without it."

Recipe. Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites

Using a butter puff pastry is the host or hostess's best friend. Try this delectable nibble for your next party and your guests will be coming back for more.

Ingredients:

- ½ PC Butter Puff Pastry, thawed but still cold
- 5 ounces (150 grams) leftover roast turkey breast, finely diced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) mayonnaise
- 1 package (200 grams) PC Double Cream Brie, rind removed and cheese cut into 24 equal pieces
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 24 fresh parsley leaves

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C).
2. Place puff pastry on work surface. Roll pastry out in one direction to form a rectangle; cut into 24 equal pieces. Press each piece into the cups of a 24-cup mini muffin pan, allowing some overhang. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. In a small bowl, stir together turkey and mayonnaise. Remove muffin pan from freezer; divide turkey mixture among the cups. Top each with a piece of Brie, pressing down slightly.
4. Bake in centre of oven for 20 to 22 minutes or until pastry is golden on bottom and cheese is melted and starting to brown.
5. Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir together Dijon and honey. Transfer pastry bites to a long platter; drizzle Dijon mixture over top and garnish with parsley leaves. Makes 24 servings.

NEWS CANADA

Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites. NEWS CANADA

Superstar Eggnog Tarts. NEWS CANADA

Holiday dessert recipe. Superstar Eggnog Tarts

Creating an impressive holiday dessert table doesn't have to take hours in the kitchen. You can bake with style using easy-to-make recipes that both look beautiful and taste great. These cute Superstar Eggnog Tarts are perfect for any festive function.

Ingredients:

- 2 packages Tenderflake tart shells
- ¼ cup (60 ml) sugar
- 1 egg
- ⅓ cup (80 ml) evaporated milk
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) water
- 2 tsp (10 ml) amber or light rum
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) nutmeg
- Pinch of cinnamon

Frosting:

- ¾ cup (175 ml) white icing
- ½ tsp (1 ml) nutmeg
- 1½ cups (375 ml) whipped topping

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C).
2. Arrange one package of tart shells on a baking sheet. Using an electric beater, beat together the sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Stir in evaporated milk, water, rum, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour into the tart shells and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until crust is golden and filling is set. Remove from the oven and cool.
3. Remove the remaining tart shells from the foil tins. Transfer to a lightly floured work surface and press to flatten. Using a 1½- to two-inch (3½- to five-centimetre) star-shaped cutter, cut a star from each piece of pastry. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet and bake for eight minutes or until nicely browned. Remove from the oven and cool completely.
4. Mix icing and nutmeg together and place in a small piping bag. Pipe a thin line of icing around the edges of each star.
5. Top each tart with 2 tbsp (30 ml) of whipped topping and garnish with a star.

NEWS CANADA

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Nikon Df — $3,099.95

Fujifilm X20 — $549

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

Festive focus

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

While many smartphones take impressive photos, any photographer will tell you they have yet to match the quality of standalone cameras. Here are a few of the best devices to truly impress the shutterbug on your list

Nikon Df — $3,099.95

A modern camera in a retro-style body. While many cameras feature touch-screen controls and menus, the 16.2-megapixel Nikon Df brings back classic mechanical dials to change settings, creating a simple approach to photography. If you are feeling techie you can use the optional wireless adapter to browse the camera's memory card on your smartphone or tablet.

Sony Alpha 7 — $1,699.99 (body only)

The world's smallest and lightest interchangeable lens full-frame camera. This 24.3-megapixel camera is full of features, including lightning quick autofocus, a tillable three-inch OLED display, and the ability to record uncompressed 1080p HD video.

Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99

A lot of features at a relatively low price point. This compact camera has a 20X zoom, three-inch touchscreen along with GPS capabilities so you always know where you took your pictures. If you have an Android phone you can control your camera remotely via Wi-Fi or automatically upload your pictures to social media.

Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95

A point-and-shoot with modes for every photographer, Canon's Smart Auto mode recognizes 58 predefined shooting situations so pictures turn out in even the strangest lighting conditions. This compact camera also features a whopping 20X optical zoom, which is impressive despite its small size.

Fujifilm X20 — $549

The camera that's ready when you are. The 12-megapixel Fujifilm X20 starts up in 0.5 seconds, auto focuses in 0.06 seconds and can snap photos in 0.01 seconds. This entry-level premium camera has a large optical viewfinder, the ability to shoot in RAW mode and a hot shoe for those who prefer an external flash.

Canon EOS 70D — $1,299.99

A full-feature DSLR with plenty of controls. Advanced users will love the in-depth options while beginners can take advantage of the simplistic basic mode. Those with a creative mind will love the Live View filter mode, which adds dream-like, miniature and colour filters in real time so you know what your photo will look like before you snap the shutter.

Pentax WG-10 — $199

The ultimate camera for the adventurer in your life. This 14-megapixel camera is crushproof, shockproof and waterproof. What really sets this camera apart is the digital microscope mode, which allows for magnified pictures of the smallest subjects — from insects to veins on leaves.

Bonzart Ampel — $180

It may look like a toy, but the Bonzart Ampel camera is anything but. This dual-lens camera is designed to shoot tilt-shift photos, a cool effect that makes everything look like miniature scale models. A unique gift for that creative person on your shopping list.

Bigshot DIY Digital Camera — $89

A camera for those who are curious about learning, the Bigshot camera comes in pieces, allowing the user to not only put it together, but learn about how cameras work in the process. At three megapixels, this camera may not take professional quality pictures, but the built-in lens wheel that toggles between regular, panoramic and 3D photos will ensure hours of fun for youngsters.

Bonzart Ampel — $180, clockwise, from left, Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS30 — $399.99, Canon PowerShot SX280 HS — $269.95, and Pentax WG-10 — $199.

Dashing through the snow

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. CONTRIBUTED

The Range Rover Supercharged. CONTRIBUTED

The Ford Fiesta ST. CONTRIBUTED

The Lincoln MKZ. CONTRIBUTED

Santa will understand if you put one of these cool sleighs on your Christmas wish list. Whether your budget is naughty or nice, here are some great autos for dashing through the snow.

JAGUAR XJR ($119,990)

The newest addition and the sporting pinnacle of the Jaguar XJ lineup is the XJR. New exterior styling has given this stealthy sleigh an assertive appearance. A front splitter, special hood louvres and quad tailpipes also add to the car's sporty look.

This new generation XJR offers an exhilarating ride combined with the luxury and refinement associated with the brand. Heart-pounding performance is provided by a 5.0-litre supercharged V8 engine that boasts 550 horsepower.

RANGE ROVER ($115,000)

The Range Rover Supercharged offers a level of luxury that gets the royal nod. Underneath the sumptuous interior lining of leather is the solid protection of a tank. The Rover is well-known to be a thirsty beast. So with a goal to make it more fuel efficient, it was put on a diet and is now 317 kilograms (700 pounds) lighter than the previous model. As a result, the new aluminum unibody offers an improvement in fuel economy — 16.6/10.6 L/100 km (city/highway). It also has Transmission Idle Control, which disengages 70 per cent of the drive power when idling.

No matter what terrain you are tackling, the Rover automatically knows the kind of traction you need — whether you are climbing rocks or descending on sand.

It is also practically amphibious. This Rover can dog-paddle you through a flood up to about 850 millimetres (33 inches).

The supercharged 5.0-litre V8 engine offers 510 horsepower, but with such road-silencing features and finishes, and an amazingly smooth ride, you will need to keep one eye on the speedometer.

LINCOLN MKZ ($39,000)

Sit in the new MKZ and for a second or two you will wonder how to put this beauty into gear. Look up on the dashboard and you will see it has an automatic push-button shift. Although it's strange at first to shift into gear with your finger, the design idea frees up console space.

Select the operating mode — sport, normal or comfort — that suits your preference. Whether you are driving on dry pavement, snow, mud or gravel, you will feel confident knowing it is equipped with all-wheel drive (optional with the 2.0-litre EcoBoost and 3.7-litre V6 engines).

FORD FIESTA ST ($24,999)

Looks are deceiving with the Ford Fiesta ST. This hot hatchback might look small, but it packs a whopping punch for its size with a 1.6-litre EcoBoost engine producing 197 horsepower, about 20 per cent more than the previous model. You can accelerate from zero to 100 km/h in less than seven seconds.

The six-speed manual transmission makes it super-fun to drive. The steering is direct and responsive. Plus, the suspension has been modified for a quicker, overall steering ratio.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The holiday season is a busy time for engagements as people get imaginative and romantic with their proposals. ALTAFULLA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Creating that fairy tale touch to the holidays

HEATHER BEAUMONT
For Metro

Four years ago, Craig Roy of It's All About You Event Planning learned that the rules of engagement begin with an imaginative marriage proposal.

A client decided to propose over the holidays and Roy and his special events team in Halifax suggested proposal options.

"The one that our client loved was going for a walk with their dogs and returning home to play outside in the snow," Roy wrote in an email. "They built a snowman together, including the props — carrot, scarf, twigs and mittens. Once the snowman was built, our client dug out a piece of the snowman's belly and placed the open ring box in the hole for his girlfriend to find."

Although clients often bring their own ideas, Roy and other marriage proposal planners pitch ideas.

"We ask consultation questions of our clients to get to know them and their ideas," Roy wrote. "The type of proposal really depends on their personality and who they are."

For Socrates Reppas of Marquis Jewellers in Toronto, the holiday season is a busy time of year.

"I have five engagement rings ready for pickup," he said. "They order custom diamond engagement rings from $1,600 to $150,000 to propose over the holidays. A lot of them like to propose on New Year's Eve."

Reppas' face brightens as he recounts the marriage proposals of love-struck men who enter his store to buy engagement rings. "They tell me what they're going to do when they buy the ring."

One man arranged to have his girlfriend drive by herself to his aunt's house in Niagara Falls. She arrived at sunset and turned into a long, tree-lined driveway lit up with Christmas tree lights. At the end of a driveway of about 100 metres, the path curved to reveal the house decorated with a big sign that read, "Will You Marry Me?"

"Some clients want to go above and beyond for their fiancée," Roy wrote. "Some want the fairy tale story to tell their friends and family about how they got engaged."

Reppas believes there is much more to holiday proposals.

"They propose marriage over the holidays and on New Year's Eve to be romantic."

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Super Dry Men's Pullover Hoodie, $130, available at Sporting Life stores, sportinglife.ca.

Barbour Merino Cashmere Tartan Scarf, $100, available at Sporting Life stores, sportinglife.ca.

Cotton Blue Plaid collared shirt, $16.99, available at Marshalls stores, marshallscanada.ca.

Lived-in Plaid Shirt, $54.95, available at The Gap stores, gapcanada.ca.

Fresh Train Classic FRSH hat. $95. Partial proceeds to Free The Children. freshtrainco.com.

Trapper hat, $49.99, available at Marshalls, marshallscanada.ca.

Chuck Taylor All Star City Hiker, $70, converse.com.

CFL

Stubler takes reins of Calgary defence

The Calgary Stampeders hired veteran Rich Stubler as their new defensive co-ordinator Thursday.

Stubler replaces Rick Campbell, who left to become the head coach of the expansion Ottawa Redblacks.

Stubler, 64, spent the last two seasons as the B.C. Lions defensive co-ordinator.

"I'm appreciative that the Stampeders and coach (John) Hufnagel have a little faith in me," says Stubler. "I'm really excited to come and work for the red and white."

Stubler takes over a Calgary defence that last year led the CFL in sacks (63). THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Thunder keep rolling after win against Bulls

Kevin Durant scored 32 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Chicago Bulls 107-95 on Thursday night for their eighth straight win.

Russell Westbrook had 20 points and reserve Reggie Jackson added 18 to help the Thunder improve to 13-0 at Chesapeake Energy Arena. Oklahoma City is the only NBA team with a perfect home record. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo stands after giving up a goal to the Dallas Stars in the first period at the American Airlines Center in Dallas Thursday night. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

Canucks left seeing Stars in Dallas

Cold on the road. The loss in Texas marks the second straight road loss for Vancouver

Thursday	
4	1
Stars	Canucks

Jamie Benn and Colton Sceviour scored goals 15 seconds apart in the first period Thursday night, leading the Dallas Stars to a 4-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks.

Erik Cole had a goal and two assists, and Tyler Seguin and Rich Peverley added two assists apiece for the Stars.

Dallas goalie Kari Lehtonen made 26 saves and allowed only one goal for his 100th win with the Stars. He had allowed 10 goals during his previous two starts.

The Canucks (20-11-6) lost on the road for the second time in three nights following a seven-game winning streak. They had earned at least a point in eight consecutive games. Dallas (17-12-5) started fast, taking six of the first seven shots on goal.

At 4:34 of the first period, Benn lifted a shot over Canucks goalie Roberto Luongo on assists from Seguin and Cole.

The Stars came right back at Luongo after the faceoff.

Peverley sent a pass across the goal mouth to Sceviour, who scored at 4:49 for his third goal in four games this season.

Chris Higgins fired from the right faceoff circle over Lehtonen to cut the deficit to 2-1.

The Stars had the game's first power play midway through the period, but the Canucks had the best scoring chances. Lehtonen stopped short-range shots by Jannik Hansen on a 2-on-1 shorthanded rush and by Brad Richardson two seconds after Ryan Kesler's penalty expired. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

Richport FORD

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NHL

Red Wings edge Flames to snap losing skid

Daniel Alfredsson scored two goals, including a power-play score at 1:03 of overtime, and the Detroit Red Wings earned a 3-2 win over the Calgary Flames on Thursday night. The win snapped Detroit's six-game losing streak (0-4-2) and five-game home losing streak.

Alfredsson added an assist and Joakim Andersson also scored for Detroit. Pavel Datsyuk had three assists, Niklas Kronwall two assists. Jonas Gustavsson made 20 saves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People from normal childhoods with normal lives don't end up homeless. Dave disagrees.

(Dave, in shelters for 12 years)

HOMELESSNESS CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE. VISIT RAISINGTHEROOF.ORG TO HELP. RAISING THE ROOF

Seattle rookie steps up to fill in some big shoes

Injured McCoy. Seahawks tight end has been out after tearing his Achilles last season

Tight end Luke Willson of the Seahawks rushes against the Oakland Raiders on Aug. 29 in Seattle, Wash. OTTO GREULE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Anthony McCoy was lost for the season in May after tearing an Achilles, the Seattle Seahawks were left with several questions at the tight end position.

While veteran Zach Miller was set as the starter, Seattle needed to find a complement to fill out their offensive attack. Fifth-round pick Luke Willson stepped up.

Willson has played in every game for Seattle this season and scored his first touchdown two weeks ago against the San Francisco 49ers. He has become a more trusted option for quarterback Russell Wilson as the season has progressed and has become a more competent blocker.

"Luke can play the whole position," coach Pete Carroll said. "I mean he's been a fantastic draft pick for us, an incredible draft pick for us. I mean he could play so early and contribute in such a variety of ways, and he's really just getting started."

McCoy caught 18 passes for 291 yards and three touchdowns last season. He had improved as a run blocker and Seattle felt comfortable lining up in the backfield, split out wide or as an inline blocker. With McCoy injured, Willson had some big shoes to fill and not much time to get up to speed.

"I was still so new and so involved with trying to learn the offence that I really didn't have too many thoughts where I would be down the road," Willson said.

He tried to keep his head down and focused on what was in front of him instead of looking at the big picture of the role he needed to fill.

"It was like 'I'm going to try and worry about the next play. Make sure I know what I'm doing,'" Willson said.

With Miller sidelined for much of the pre-season due to injury, Willson and second-year player Sean McGrath had ample opportunity to impress the coaching staff. The mark left by Willson's play led Seattle to keep just two tight ends during final cutdowns in August. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A clash of opposing viewpoints is likely at work today. Because you need to get along with both sides, you must stay neutral. The best approach is to treat it all as a bit of a joke.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you find yourself up against a tough opponent today, you should back off and live to fight another day. The planets warn this is a battle you cannot win. The only sensible course is to withdraw, for now.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You don't have to be nice to people because you want to spare their feelings. If there is something that needs to be said, give it to them straight.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You would be wise to be on your guard over the next 24 hours as the planets warn someone you work or do business with is being more than a little deceitful. Don't judge others by what they say, judge them by what they do.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A moment's hesitation could cause you grief — at the very least you will kick yourself for not trusting your instincts. Don't listen to those who say you should be cautious. It may be good advice for them but it's not right for you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Check facts today, especially those that a colleague says are OK and you don't have to worry about. If you give them the green light to proceed now, you may regret it later.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be tempted to do something drastic today but the planets warn the results are as likely to be negative as positive. Why not just wait a while and let the current situation work itself out?

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be careful what you say. You could easily go over the top and let slip something that causes trouble. It might also cost you financially if others get the impression that you can't hold your tongue.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You appear to be having second thoughts about a plan that previously you thought was the key to success. Maybe you are right to hesitate but you are going to have to make a choice and stick with it.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It would appear that in your haste to get ahead, you have overlooked some small but important detail. Identify your mistake, correct it, move on.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A minor dispute could easily get out of hand today, especially if you insist that you are in the right and everyone else is wrong. You're not the only one who is stubborn, so a standoff is likely.

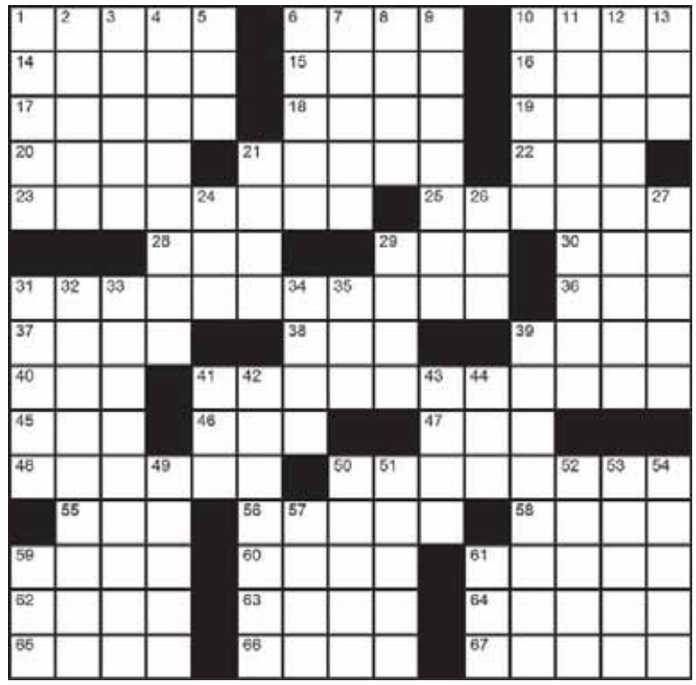
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
State your case today but don't get upset if others disagree and try to pick holes in your arguments. The world is a big enough place for all shades of opinion, so agree to disagree.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



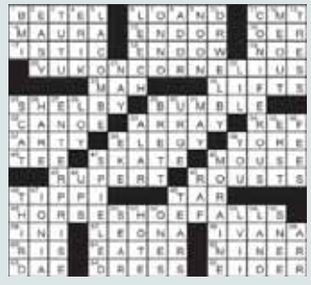
Across

1. December 21st, 1913: Invented by Arthur __ of the New York World, the greatest game at #12-Down
6. Season
10. Inscribe
14. Grease again
15. Woodwind
16. Q. "Is '__.' _ way to abbreviate any coming-in plane?" A. "Yes."
17. Nets
18. Volcanic flow
19. London lockup
20. Weapon: French
21. More kind
22. Mr. Asner's
23. Bag type
25. Legal scholar
28. Cousin __
29. Masc. opposite
30. Defunct airline
31. Canadian journalist on FOX News who was a MuchMusic host: 2 wds.
36. Particle
37. Ancient war god
38. Granny: German
39. Rope
40. Anderson Cooper's station
41. Will Ferrell's 'Anchorman': 2 wds.
45. Ms. Carpenter, for short
46. Alias, e.g.
47. Nice one?
48. Hockey's Conn __ Trophy
50. 1924... Simon & __: Publishers of the first book of #12-Downs (Trivia! Richard L. Simon is the father of the singer/songwriter at #9-Down)
55. Christmas __
56. Archaic anesthetic
58. 'Slithy' Lewis Carroll creature
59. Cuckoos
60. Young farm animal
61. Fine cottons
62. Going __ (Arguing): 2 wds.
63. Turkey, chicken, etc.
64. Fragrance
65. Unchanged: 2 wds.
66. Building extensions
67. "You're still the one _ __ good night..." (Shania Twain line)

Down

1. __ havoc
2. Long for
3. Montreal-born actress Ms. Shearer (b.1902 - d.1983)
4. What a bowling ball could knock over: 2 wds.
5. Chicago trains
6. __ acid (Romaine lettuce stuff)
7. Surprised, taken __
8. Zero, in tennis
9. Bit of Carly Simon's "You're So Vain": "Then you flew your __ __ up to Nova Scotia..."
10. Gung-ho
11. Custom
12. Puzzle celebrating its 100th Anniversary!
13. Mr. Holbrook
21. International†org.
24. Gibraltar, e.g.
26. Hmms...
27. Actress Jessica
29. Herr's wife
31. Mr. Black's
32. Christmas Tree decorations
33. English king: name + Roman Numeral
34. __ fide
35. Diplomatic bldg.
39. Pool table prop: 2 wds.
41. Hurray!
42. American painter Georgia
43. Industrial region of Germany
44. Wildebeest
49. Quizzes
50. Wrap
51. Lockups
52. Moviedom's Marisa
53. Linda of "Dynasty"
54. Respites
57. Hammer
59. US driving org.
61. 23rd Greek letter

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	3		6		7	1	5	
				9				7
5						9		6
	2		5			8	3	
				1				
	9	4			8		1	
4		7						3
9			2					
	5	2	9		3		6	

Yesteday's Sudoku

7	3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1
4	5	6	8	9	1	7	3	2
2	1	9	3	7	6	4	8	5
9	8	3	1	5	4	6	2	7
5	2	4	6	3	7	1	9	8
1	6	7	9	2	8	5	4	3
8	7	5	4	6	2	3	1	9
3	4	1	7	8	9	2	5	6
6	9	2	5	1	3	8	7	4

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